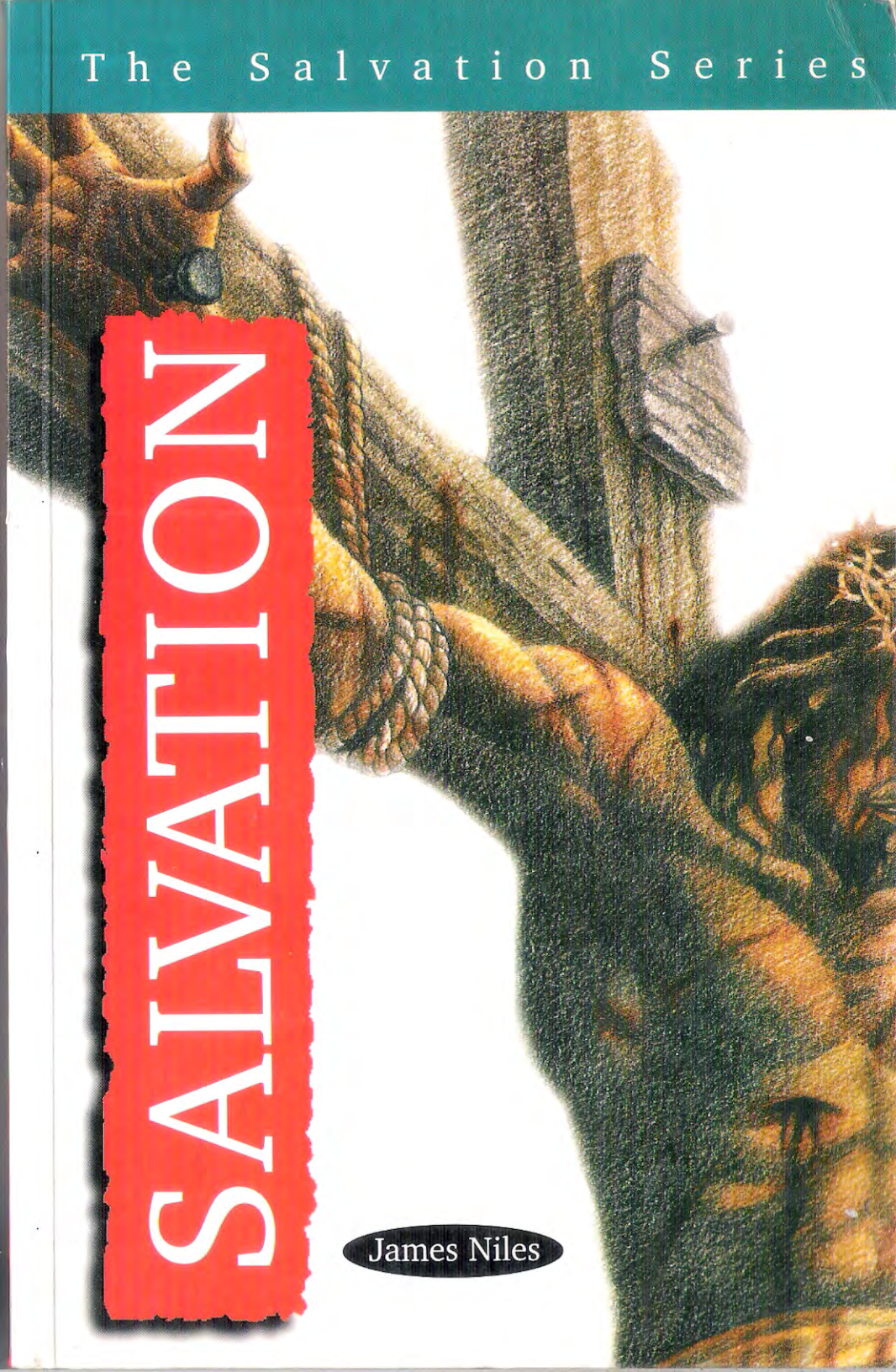


The Salvation Series



SALVATION

James Niles

WHY WE NEED SALVATION

The one reality that we are inevitably faced with in the course of our life, is that human life seems to have no **sustainable** purpose. Everything experienced in the world is transitory - here today and gone tomorrow.

There is a phase in our life when we seem to have something (sometimes everything) going for us but, the reality inevitably fades away. In its place comes an emptiness and a sense of futility. What seemed so real a few months or a few years ago is no longer there. Gone forever.

We often try and ignore this sense of emptiness by getting ourselves involved in a host of activities (even religious ones) and various forms of entertainment but, inevitably in moments of solitude, we are faced with the emptiness that is in us

Something is seriously missing. And ignoring it or, pretending that it is not there is not the answer or the solution. Getting more immersed in religion too is not the answer.

While we are often trained to *believe* that we can achieve "anything" we set our minds to, in the final analysis we enter the realization that we do not have control over our lives and our circumstances. While we are often taught to give life to possibilities, the outcomes of all man-denominated possibilities are nonetheless, inevitably unsustainable.

For a short while, even over several years, being successful in some degree feels very real and very tangible. It even appears that we will be able to sustain the aura of our seeming invincibility indefinitely. But, inevitably we come face to face with our frailties.

In the end, we settle into the inevitability of this reality of decay and futility, by saying that this is "life" and there is nothing that anyone can do to change it. We are fated to live in decay and futility.

The Mystery Of Life Explained

The Bible (in Hebrews 12:27>) refers to ***the mystery of life*** as we experience it, in the following terms: "***the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, in order that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.***"

The Bible is proclaiming the reality of a Sovereign GOD WHO ***actually ensures*** the removal of "***things which can be shaken, as of created things, in order that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.***"

GOD brings each one of us to a point in our life when we are forced to address the ***status, purpose*** and ***direction*** of our own life, so that we can each actually discover the reality of those things which cannot be shaken. ***That is HIS purpose in each and every one of our lives - no exceptions.***

Since that is HIS purpose, only ***our unwillingness*** to yield to HIM and HIS purposes are the barriers to our discovery of those things which cannot be shaken.

The Truth Is: There Is Hope

In being told that **all created things** are temporary, we are also being told that there is an actual reality of "***those things which cannot be shaken***" - ***which remain***. We are being told that there is a reality pertaining to the ***uncreated*** which cannot be shaken. We are also being told that the reason why created things pass away, is so that the reality of those things which cannot be shaken can be taken hold of, so that we in turn can live.

To live, simply means to be able to experience life as a ***growing fulfillment*** (forever) as opposed to the inevitability of decay and death that the human race experiences.

We are being told that the sense of futility that we all experience - inwardly - at some point in our life, can be replaced with an inward reality and conviction of a growing fulfillment fashioned by GOD HIMSELF. This is the reality and hope that the Word Of GOD presents us.

The sense of futility that we all experience at some point in our life is the result of ***our total dependence*** on created things. And when the created things inevitably begin to fade and pass away, we are left helpless and defeated.

We are left helpless because we have invested all that we have, in terms of our own person and in terms of our priceless life, into the transitory. The helplessness experienced is a result of the reality of seeing "things possessed", into which we have invested our very life, actually disappear. And this is a frightening experience.

The Word Of GOD however, proclaims the fact of our being able to discover the reality of ***"those things which cannot pass away."*** The Word Of GOD proclaims the ***evidence*** of our being able to receive the assurance of a future that transcends the decay and death of the world we live in.

The Word Of GOD proclaims a reality in which we can invest our personal life into that which cannot pass away.

When the transitory disappears, obviously there is nothing left. ***The Word Of GOD proclaims that while the transitory disappears, there is an actual reality of those things which cannot pass away, that we can experience and even take possession of.*** And this reality can be received and experienced so that we will be able to live with the *expectancy* of a future, as opposed to a future of inevitable decay and death. The ***evidence of a future*** will be brought alive into our hearts.

The Word Of GOD (in **Luke 21:33**) expresses this reality in the following terms: ***"Heaven and earth will pass away, but MY Words will not pass away."*** The eternal reality in ***"MY Words"*** are described as ***HIS Spirit*** and ***HIS Life*** in **John 6:63**. This reality in HIS Spirit and HIS Life finds expression in our inward being and produces ***an evidence*** of a future.

This reality of ***"MY Words"*** is therefore a growing and abiding evidence of the unshakable brought into us by GOD HIMSELF.

The Reality Of Things Unshakable

From the foregoing, we see that the Word Of GOD categorically speaks of a reality of things ***unshakable***. While all created things pass away from the world that we live in, there is a reality of the ***uncreated*** that remains. And, as we will discover in the course of this book, the ***uncreated*** will enable us to also ***remain***! How is this so?

The reality of the uncreated, is the reality of GOD - WHO is Self-Existent and Uncreated - and, all that comes forth from HIM; which remains, on the basis of actually being sustained ***in HIM*** and ***by HIM***, on an "online" basis. GOD actually becomes involved in building the evidence of HIS reality into us!

This is the reality that cannot be shaken because, it is sustained by the living GOD - personally. It is sustained by ***HIS Spirit*** and ***HIS Life***.

The Word Of GOD is proclaiming that we can experience this reality - in our inward being. And, we are each being called to discover this reality that cannot be shaken, that can come alive into us, into our inward being as proof of a future that GOD HIMSELF wants to give us. A proof unveiled in a ***personal relationship*** with the ALMIGHTY and All-Sufficient ONE.

Elsewhere in the Word Of GOD, we are told that we have been given the privilege of coming to ***know HIM*** (see **Jeremiah 31:33-34**); and, to even being actually ***taught by HIM*** (see **Isaiah 54:13**; **John 6:45**), We are also told that we can actually come to love GOD through the reality and experience of knowing HIM.

Deuteronomy 30:6 puts it this way: "... the LORD your GOD will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your GOD with all your heart and with all your soul, in order that you may live."

The Bible is proclaiming that every human being has the potential of an inward ***evidence*** of GOD and, all that HE personally sustains within them.

A very strong word "evidence" is used. The Word Of GOD (in **Romans 1:19-20**) proclaims this reality, in the following terms: **"That which is known about GOD is**

evident *within them* (within each and every one of us - no exceptions); **for GOD made it evident to them** (to us all). **For since the creation of the world HIS invisible attributes, HIS eternal power and Divine Nature, have been *clearly seen*, being *understood* through what has been made."**

Based on what has been created and what is in each one of us, the reality of GOD is proclaimed to be "**evident**", "**clearly seen**" and, "**understood through what has been made**".

We also see from the passage that the evidence is only realized from ***within us***. This makes it a very personalized evidence. Also notice that the span of what we are capable of realizing - inwardly, as an evidence - involves GOD'S *invisible* attributes, HIS eternal power and HIS Divine Nature.

This evidence relates to the revelation of HIMSELF, in HIS very PERSON, to us - personally. In this revelation, we are able to actually come to love HIM with all our heart and all our soul.

We are in effect being told that HE is the reality that remains. And, when this reality of HIM comes alive within us, HE also enables us to enter the reality of that which remains through HIM and, because of HIM. And, this reality is unveiled within us as an evidence that we can evaluate within us.

If the reality of GOD is meant to be evident, the obvious question is: why are we in general unable to realize the evidence that has been made available to us - ***clearly?*** Why does there seem to be a mental block when we pursue the things of GOD? Why is there an inner conflict within us when we pursue the things of GOD? Why do so many believe that living in GOD and by GOD is boring?

There is a reason as to why this is so.

Why Can't We See Clearly?

If we examine life as it is lived in the world system, we will see a focus on two fundamental "realities": (i) An external reality of things material - the "all that is seen is all there is" reality; and, (ii) A religious or semi-religious system based on what we can each achieve *in ourselves* and *of ourselves*.

The first reality of the material denies the existence of GOD - "objectively" - **by assuming** HIS non-existence and HIS irrelevance. The second reality of religiosity denies GOD by having a man-centered "religious" focus and/or a concept of "GOD" that "reduces HIM" to the reality of something as defined by ourselves.

For example: the statement that "love is god", makes "god" subject to a concept of love defined by ourselves. The truth would be (see **I John 4:8**) the fact that **"GOD Is Love."** Now it is GOD in HIS excellence WHO defines the attribute of love. In this perspective, we realize our shortcomings because the standard is not ourselves, but GOD HIMSELF.

Given the fact that GOD Is Love, we can now understand realities in which GOD forgives us because HE loves us. Realities in which GOD blesses us because HE created us so as to express HIS love in our lives. Realities in which GOD perseveres with us so that we can experience HIS salvation and, live in the abundance of HIS love. And so on.

All these realities - of HIS love realized - that belong to the assurance of life eternal, become fact, simply because GOD Is Love!

Love is god, denies all of the realities that we just mentioned. Love is god, denies the Sovereign Nature of GOD and makes god the subject of love! Where love, is then some idea that we conceptualize. ***Now god becomes our "creation"!***

The reason why we are unable to see - ***clearly*** - HIS invisible attributes, HIS eternal power and Divine Nature is because we live in a world system (both secular and religious) that has ***cultivated the reality of denying HIS existence***, and HIS practical relevance, by a focus on self, self-denominated abilities and, self-denominated secular and religious concepts and, things material.

We are surrounded by, and immersed in, a reality (actually a spiritual reality in falsehood) that has brought within us a veil of darkness based on the **worship (or, deification) of self**.

There is only ONE GOD WHO created the universe and WHO designed and established its every legitimate Law - natural and spiritual - for the declared purpose of revealing HIMSELF; in terms of HIS PERSON, HIS Nature, HIS Laws and, HIS Purposes.

And, this is because HE is meant to be understood through all that has been created.

And, this is **necessary** because HE Is Life and the revelation of HIM enables HIS Life to flow into HIS creation, in order to cause all things to live by HIM, through HIS power, unveiled in the living and growing evidence of HIM.

Our focus on self, self-denominated abilities and concepts and, things material, deny HIM HIS rightful place. And the denial of HIM is experienced as **an actual emptiness within ourselves**.

HE designed us to commune with HIM **and to live by HIM**. But we have a secular system that declares HE is non-existent! And, we have a religious system focused on **our** ideas of goodness and, **our** abilities to be good in ourselves.

Instead of HIM being the be all and end all of life; **we** become the focus of our life.

The denial of GOD therefore, comes in two forms in the world system: (i) As a many-faceted religious system of rules, regulations and spiritual concepts that are **substitutes** for HIM, and therefore, are effectively a subtle, but actual, denial of HIM; and, (ii) As a scientific system that **assumes** HIS irrelevance in every field and form of knowledge.

The result of these two "realities", that we are all involved with in some manner everyday, is the spiritual reality within us and around us, **of the absence of GOD**, that blinds us from seeing HIM **clearly**.

The blindness is entirely spiritual in nature. And this spiritual reality exerts a force on our inner faculties. The Word Of GOD calls this reality the Spirit Of The World. This is the Spirit Of Darkness. The **actual** absence of Light.

The Word Of GOD proclaims that GOD is Light. And, the absence of HIM is therefore (by definition) darkness. And the reality of this darkness is a spiritual reality called the "Spirit Of Darkness". And this is the Spirit Of The World.

Our inward emptiness and the futility that we experience therefore, reflects the actual absence of the ALMIGHTY and All-sufficient ONE. And in this emptiness is the experiential reality of the futility of decay and death; simply because, no life is flowing through into our heart, soul and mind to bring forth a **renewal** and **regeneration that will keep our inward man alive and thriving in the evidence of HIM.**

GOD our Creator has designed every facet of our being to **continuously grow** and be a reflection of HIS reality. And this is because HE is Life; and, without HIM and the reality of HIM, alive in each one of us, we simply cannot live.

It is because we are unable to receive of HIM, that we experience the decay and darkness of HIS absence. Since GOD Is Life, HIS absence is also obviously decay and death.

The Word Of GOD, the Bible, calls this objective and deliberate denial of GOD as **sin**. It is an objective state of rebellion against GOD.

Sin is simply enmity with GOD. The unwillingness, to receive GOD in our lives and into our spheres of influence **as HE IS**, on **HIS terms**. The unwillingness to recognize HIS Sovereignty, although, the entire human race is fully dependent on what GOD alone has provided. Even our technologies are **entirely dependent** on what has been created and, what has been ordained in terms of natural laws. Yet, we are guilty of denying HIS relevance or HIS Sovereignty in virtually every area of human expression - even in religion.

The collective state of our lives, as we are living it right now, proves our deliberate and premeditated **unwillingness** to discover HIS invisible attributes, HIS eternal power and

HIS Divine Nature, ***which are to be clearly seen, when understood through what has been made - especially our own being.***

By objectively denying the relevance of GOD, we have corrupted every field of knowledge; and so, what should be evident to us is no longer so.

What the Word Of GOD proclaims as being "clearly seen" is thus seemingly unseen because we have an entire world system in place, built over generations, that objectively and deliberately denies HIM.

HE is simply misrepresented in many different kinds of religious substitutes or, ***assumed*** to be irrelevant and non-existent in our intellectual pursuits. And it is because we all ***willingly receive*** this falsehood, in one form or another, that we in turn are unable to see what should be evident to us.

Before we talk about sin, let us first address the subject of the religious substitutes.

What Is A Religious Substitute?

A religious substitute is something that *appears* to be based on GOD; but, in its practice, the substitute replaces HIM or, takes HIS place; and, as a result of the denial of HIM, HE is no longer alive to us from our inward man. The religious substitute takes HIS place and denies HIM and screens HIM out of our reality, so that we can no longer see HIM.

In the practice of religion we see two forms of substitutes: **(i) A physical substitute** (a statue or, a special person or, a special place that either takes HIS place or ***misrepresents*** HIM); and, **(ii) A spiritual substitute** (a theological or spiritual philosophy or set of teachings or, spiritual experience that replaces the living GOD).

Whatever its form, the religious substitute is ***clearly identified*** by the absence of GOD in our lives. There is an ***emptiness*** in our lives. We don't know HIM and as a result we have nothing to depend on, in sustainable terms.

We don't love HIM and this is the result of the absence of an actual relationship with HIM. We are stuck with our weaknesses and our nature because we are unable to

draw change and transformation from HIM - in HIS power and, HIS creative abilities. Effectively therefore, HE has no real place in us or in our lives. And, the resultant state is an ***emptiness and futility*** within our own selves.

There is a fear of evil that imprisons us or, there is futility that governs our thought processes or, there is a dogmatic focus on a set of **spiritual practices** that are entirely substitutes for HIM.

The Reality Of GOD

What is the inward reality of GOD? The Word Of GOD declares that the reality of GOD is a growing **realization** within our heart and mind. The realization of **actually loving GOD** through HIS goodness revealed in ourselves.

We grow in this realization of HIM - in HIS love. This is so powerful in its potential, that the Bible addresses the reality of this love, as having the potential of consuming all of our heart, soul, mind and strength.

To love GOD, is therefore a consequence brought forth by a living reality in GOD and a living relationship with GOD that, permeates every aspect of our daily life. It is important to understand that ***love is not based on just belief, but on the evidence of a living relationship with a living person.***

While we can believe anything that we want to, it is impossible to love the non-relational or the non-existent! Love is an active reality that is experienced. **Love involves two parties who mean something to each other.** And love **actually reveals** the reality of the person who expresses the love. True love therefore, cannot lie.

And this is especially so, because GOD Is Love. In the Word Of GOD (**Deuteronomy 30:6**), GOD actually proposes to ***make us come to love HIM with all of our heart and soul!***

Understanding True Religion

GOD Is Sovereign. The GOD WHO created the universe out of nothing is not subject to our religious practices. Instead HIS reality and HIS revelation is what must determine and prove our religion.

True religion is an actual response to GOD in a living relationship, established in HIS Sovereignty.

HE must reveal HIMSELF to us. HE needs to manifest HIS Light into us so that we can come to see HIM and to know HIM.

No one can bring light out of darkness because darkness is by definition the absence of light. So, unless there is first light, there cannot be more light.

The Bible declares that GOD Is Light. If we, in our own free will, close our eyes to GOD by denying HIM or, finding a substitute for HIM, the darkness that automatically fills us, is by definition the absence of HIS Light. The absence of HIS Light means that we can no longer see HIM. And, this is proven by the absence of a living relationship in love.

Man's inward reality is declared as a reality in "***the light of darkness***" in the Word Of GOD. The Word Of GOD declares: "**If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness.**"

The light of darkness is falsehood; falsely expressing itself as the light of revelation. The proof of falsehood is that its "benefits" are entirely and inevitably ***unsustainable***.

The emptiness within cannot be removed. There is no fulfillment - in love, within us - that grows out of an actual relationship with the living GOD.

An inner experience of fear, emptiness, terror, being oppressed by memories and imaginations, pride and stubbornness, ***self-righteousness*** are all different facets of the realities of falsehood.

On the other hand, an inner experience of love, peace, joy, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and, a self-control born of HIS love and ***an actual*** love for HIM, are all facets of the realities that come from truth.

The Testimony Of Falsehood

The consequences of our inability to see GOD, as we all experience, is the sense of futility that governs our inward man. The outward expression of this inner darkness is written and visually transmitted, as the testimony of mankind, in every newspaper and every television network in every city and nation of the world - every day.

What we are collectively experiencing and testifying to, is the reality of falsehood - the actual absence of GOD in our lives.

The Book Of Proverbs (**Proverbs 1:20-25, Proverbs 1:29-33**) explains the reality and consequences of falsehood, as arising from our refusal to submit ourselves to GOD.

The Voice Of Wisdom (an attribute of GOD Personified) proclaims the vivid picture of our rebellion from GOD'S point of view.

"Wisdom shouts in the street, She lifts her voice in the square;

At the head of the noisy streets, She cries out;

At the entrance of the gates of the city, She utters her sayings;

How long, O naive ones, will you love simplicity?

And scoffers delight themselves in scoffing, And fools hate knowledge?

Turn to MY reproof,

Behold I will pour out MY Spirit on you:

And I will make MY Words known to you.

..... I called, and you refused;

I stretched out MY Hand,

And no one paid attention;

..... You neglected all MY Counsel,

And did not want MY reproof

..... Because they hated knowledge,

And did not choose the fear of the LORD.

They would not accept MY Counsel,

They spurned all my reproof.

So they shall eat of *the fruit of their own way*,

And be satiated with *their own devices*.

For the waywardness of the naive shall destroy them.

And the complacency of fools shall kill them.

But he who listens to ME shall live securely,

And shall be at ease from the dread of evil."

We can better understand this passage when we understand some of the definitions of the terms used. For example, the Word Of GOD defines a **fool** (in **Psalms 14:1a**) in peculiar terms: "**The fool has said in his heart, "There is no GOD."** "

Another example (in **Proverbs 1:7**) would be the reality that "**the fear** (which actually means reverence) **of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge.**" Wisdom and

understanding are explained as follows: **"The fear (reverence) of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the HOLY ONE is understanding."**

Without the *reverence* of GOD there can by definition be no true form of knowledge, wisdom or understanding, able to bring forth the fulfilling abundance of GOD into our lives.

Notice also from the passage, that ***the proof of true freedom*** is to **"be at ease from the dread of evil."**

What is evil is death; and, anything that brings the experience of death and destruction into our beings. True security is to **"be at ease from the dread of evil."** To have received a GOD-given inward peace. This is part of evidence of Truth realized.

[Please understand that such an evidence can't be falsified; although, there are many self-denominated forms of meditation that attempt to **stimulate** this reality within the human person.

Self-denominated meditation is an example of a spiritual substitute that is a spiritual counterfeit. The proof is its un-sustainability over time because it is a self-denominated delusion based on the deification of self.]

The Word Of GOD addresses death on two fronts. A first death as a consequence of our sinfulness in the world that we live in presently. And, a second death when we are judged and found to be guilty of our sin.

In the face of this second death, GOD proposes HIS salvation, for our acceptance in heart, soul and mind.

The GOD-given inward peace of HIS salvation reality described by **"MY Words"** is testimony that we have salvation and a consequential deliverance from the second death.

The state of mankind and, what we each experience within ourselves, in terms of the absence of the fear of GOD, proves the proposition that we have turned away from GOD.

Our passage from Proverbs, outlined earlier, tells us that the inward state of mankind is because: (i) **"I called, and you refused"**; (ii) **"I stretched out MY Hand, and *no one* paid attention"**; and, (iii) **"They would not accept MY Counsel, they spurned *all* MY reproof"**.

The resulting state of mankind is described (in **Psalms 14:1b-3**) in the following terms: **"They are corrupt. They have committed abominable deeds; there is no one who does good. The LORD has looked down from heaven upon the sons of man, to see if there any who understand, who seek after GOD. They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one."**

GOD'S judgment on the human race is absolute: **"There is no one who does good, not even one, ...*Together* they have become corrupt."**

GOD is judging us based on HIS Righteous and Holy PERSON. GOD is also basing HIS judgment on our refusal to receive HIS Words (**"I called and you refused"**), HIS help (**"I stretched out MY Hand and no one paid attention"**), HIS teachings (**"They would not accept MY Counsel"**) and HIS corrections (**"They spurned all MY reproof"**). GOD is judging us on the basis of our collective sin: **"Together they have become corrupt."**

HIS judgment is based on our rejection of HIM, HIS Laws and HIS Works towards us. When we look inside ourselves, we realize that we have rejected the necessary need for HIM; a fact that is testified unambiguously through all our pursuits - both secular and religious. And, this is a fact that is testified to by our inner state of turmoil. A simulated self-denominated peace is a spiritual counterfeit because it is based on man and not on GOD.

Is GOD'S judgment unfair? Well, let us examine the evidence! For all forms of inward expression produce an evidence that can be evaluated objectively.

The State Of Mankind

Most of us think that we are not too bad. After all there still appears some element of goodness in most of us. Certainly compared with others around us we seem to be pretty good in ourselves.

And, that appears to have some merit until we understand that GOD'S standards are not based on our relative merits versus each other, but based on HIS Sovereign Nature and Goodness, HIS Laws and, ***HIS ownership*** of the created universe.

How would we look like, if we were evaluated based on all that is seen in our daily lives?

What We Look Like From The Outside Looking In

All over the world, millions are in slavery to poverty. Daily, children and women are being sold into prostitution. All over the world drugs are destroying human lives and families. We use our high technology and create weapons of disaster, pollute our air and water resources, dump chemical poisons into environment, propagate pornography in the guise of freedom and so on.

All over the world thousands of divorces are put into place daily testifying to the steady erosion of the family unit and of our inability to remain in our families. Children all over the world are being abandoned to their own devices as parents seek to survive in the pressure-cooker of our "progressive" socio-economic environment. All over the world thousands of abortions are being conducted on a daily basis. All over the world decent medical care is beyond the means of the vast majority of the human race.

The media and entertainment that "we enjoy" show exactly how good are our collective natures are. Sex and, violence are simply testimonies of lust and anger alive within us. Can a human race that actually *enjoys* watching this as "good entertainment" value be good?

Corruption is institutionalized in every part of the world albeit in different ways - in crooked business, corrupt political establishments, a corrupt judiciary and an even more

corrupt legislature, an inequitable global economic system, discriminative laws and opportunities. Entire nations are in a state of captivity within themselves and to others. Wars, racism, tribalism, fanaticism and crime cause lives - daily - in every part of the world.

In a world that boasts of its High Tech successes, there are pictured through our High Tech communications systems, the reality that men, women and children are actually dying spiritually and physically. This is vivid testimony of what we are like.

Billions are economically marginalized and have virtually no chance at a decent lifestyle; not because we don't have the resources and the means to give them a chance but, simply because it is not politically expedient or, economically efficient to allocate resources to "no-hopers". Our capitalist free-market system is only free for those who can afford it! The communist system based on "mans goodness to man" - on equitable terms - has proven to be a complete and unmitigated disaster.

In our personal relationships we manipulate others, differentiate amongst our own children, spoil our children, are unable to live with loved ones we grew up with. We undermine others, speak half truths about each other in order to sow seeds of doubt in another's mind. We conjure up an image of ourselves and our abilities, in order that we can "get ahead" in life. We have *developed* sexual deviations that are having an increasingly traumatic effect on individuals, relationships and the family unit.

We Are Accountable To The Sovereign GOD

The forms in which we actually practice evil are there all of the time. We close ourselves to evil by either denying the existence of GOD; simply because without GOD there is no need to account for anything - "just do it!"

Or, we get into religion and practice of religion that "uses GOD" - through humanly conjured religious theologies - to justify our actions and our particular way of life and our particular set of convenient philosophies.

We can of course choose to pretend that everything is fine and dandy. But the Word Of GOD speaks clearly that sin will be judged by the Sovereign GOD. And, the reality of this judgment is testified to by the futility that we experience inwardly.

In all of the Word Of GOD, men received instructions from GOD. The revelation of GOD and HIS Nature and HIS Laws and HIS Sovereign Purposes is the central theme of Scriptures. The Word Of GOD expressed in written form is called HIS Testimony. The Testimony of HIS PERSON, HIS intents and purposes and, HIS Nature.

In HIS Testimony, GOD declares that if we actually worshiped GOD we would come to actually know HIM. In HIS Testimony, GOD declares that when we know HIM, we will come to see HIS power and, we will come to admire HIS Divine Nature. GOD is love and so we will come to love because of the realization of HIS love in our hearts.

We will come to be enlightened in HIS reality, because HE, is Light. We will come to experience HIS empowering because HE is the ALMIGHTY. Above all this, we will come to have a living relationship with HIM because HE declares that HE loves us. And, we will live because HE is Life.

We are however, unable to receive GOD'S Word and Testimony because of a reality called sin that imprisons us *inwardly*.

Understanding Sin

Sin and corruption is actually not an external reality. It is in fact an inward (or, "**in situ**") state of being - "**in sin**". This is why we die. This is why we are afflicted by sickness and disease. This is why we are traumatized by our thought processes.

Our external state of affairs are a mere reflection of the internal state of being. It follows that while evil is evident in all spheres of human life, the evil of sin actually arises from within us - from our own person and our own personality. We all experience it and we all face its consequences. No one is exempt.

The results of sin when experienced in our own lives and in the lives of our loved ones in horrifying. The fact is that we can do nothing to prevent it. ***The Word Of GOD declares that he who sins becomes a slave of sin.*** The sad fact is that we are all slaves of sin. We cannot break out of the shackles of sin. No matter what we do in ourselves we are entirely subject to it.

Some people attempt self-control by meditation. Will power exerted, simply implies that we are applying an inner force (of ourselves) over ourselves; ***but the fact is, we are still the same person.***

All we have done is exert a inner power over ourselves and our conduct of life. We have in fact made ourselves a slave of the power that we have exerted over ourselves.

It is like living within prison bars so that we will not (for example) see with lustful eyes the lady with short skirt.

The point is if the self-control were removed the lustful look will return to haunt us. The reason as to why this is so is very simple. The lust is within us. It never went away. It was just forced into a "controlled state". The moment the self-control is removed the same reality returns; simply because, the reality is imbedded in our own person.

The problem is that sin is in us. It is part and parcel of our being. Deliverance from this would involve some process by which the evil that is part and parcel of our heart, soul, mind and flesh, be removed from us.

For example, we can never say we are healed of cancer until the disease is somehow completely removed from our body. One thing is for sure, one can't heal oneself from cancer.

Similarly, sin has to be removed from us - from our very person and our very personality. And, we simply don't have the means to do it in ourselves and by ourselves.

Since sin is against GOD it is only GOD WHO can remove sin from us. However, the process becomes complicated when we realize that we are created as freewill creatures.

Sin cannot just disappear from us, it needs our *objective cooperation* and *willingness* for sin to be removed from us.

Given the fact that we can sin at the speed of thought, we see that the process is actually impossible! Not because GOD cannot change us but, because we have the "inherent" ability to sin with our heart, soul and mind at the speed of ***thought and desire!*** And that is very easy to do isn't it?

In the Bible we read that GOD gave Moses a set of Laws. But, no one could actually obey the Laws because everyone (including Moses himself) had a nature that did not want to obey! And, that is essential problem.

So, what is the solution?

The One True Solution

The solution is called SALVATION. Salvation involves an on-line process in which the MOST HIGH GOD, by HIS own hand, brings alive a living process of forgiveness; a living process of healing and deliverance; a living process of change and transformation; a continual process of teaching; and, an enabling, that sustains us and enables us to live through the process of being taught and, being actually transformed. All of this, being made alive within you and me in a supernatural continuum that is verifiable in its growth within us.

The process is fully experiential so that we can evaluate the evidence of what is happening objectively. Since objectively is a process that is only possible in Truth, only GOD is Truth, we will see that GOD also means to enable the objective measure of our salvation by being in partnership with us. [Imagine a reality of being in partnership with GOD!]

Through salvation, GOD is simply going to prove to us the *evidence* that HE fore-ordained from the Beginning, that you and I will be able to experience (in evidence within ourselves and amongst ourselves) HIS invisible attributes, HIS eternal power and HIS Divine Nature.

So GOD is not kidding when HE speaks of evidence. What better evidence can we want than evidence that comes alive within us and, actually captives our heart, soul and mind! This is not the reality of religion, but instead, it is the reality of ALMIGHTY GOD - in PERSON.

In fact, the Word Of GOD proclaims that GOD means for every one of us to know HIM (**Jeremiah 31:33-34**) in such a way that we actually come to love HIM - with all our heart, with all of our soul, with all of our mind and, with all of our strength (**Deuteronomy 6:4-6, Deuteronomy 30:6**)

And, the proof that HE proposes to bring forth, is the steadily growing reality in which we actually come to love our neighbor (**Leviticus 19:32-37**). HE says that one day we will come to love our neighbor as our self (as noted in **Isaiah 11:6-9, Isaiah 11:10, Isaiah 11:1-2**)! Now that gives us a glimpse of the reality of salvation as it will one day impact the whole world.

Salvation is only solution for the human race! Because Salvation is GOD'S plan *that addresses a solution to the very nature and being of the human person.* And, HIS salvation plan will be established. The only question is whether you and I will be part and parcel of it in our own free will.

Salvation is a solution in which we each have a part to play - in ourselves and amongst ourselves - in **receiving** GOD and in **receiving** of all that GOD is able and willing to do in HIS Love and HIS Authority. It is the LORD GOD MOST HIGH WHO must save us.

If all this makes sense, may I invite you into the next portion of this book. Actually I am only inviting you on behalf of the SPIRIT Of GOD but, you will know that HE is addressing you. In fact, HE has been addressing you so far. You will sense this in your heart, where no man can enter except the ALMIGHTY and EXALTED ONE.

So, what is salvation?

WHAT IS SALVATION

Salvation is simply GOD's way of putting us back together in HIS likeness. Man was created in the image of GOD. But sin disfigured that reality and brought decay and death into our reality.

Salvation is GOD's way of changing us (or, transforming us) so that we can discover the reality of living by HIM instead of living in ourselves. The several "spiritual processes" by which this will be achieved is what constitutes salvation.

It is the purpose of this chapter to introduce the reality of salvation. We are going to do this in a historical context so that we can see that salvation is a fact, independent of the theologies of man. Salvation is GOD's idea. Only HE was and is, responsible for introducing it. And only HE can fulfill it in each one of our lives.

Everything in salvation is entirely of GOD and from GOD. Man only receives in his own free will **response** to GOD.

We have all experienced the reality of living in and by ourselves, to the total exclusion of GOD. We have seen in ourselves, in our own lives, and all around us, the consequences of this exclusion of GOD. We have now (at this reading) entered into the realization that GOD needs to get us out of the hole we have dug for ourselves - before we get buried in it.

And this is so, simply because, we do not on ourselves have the ability to actually create a nature in the likeness of GOD HIMSELF. To *create* really means to be able to bring something from non-existence into existence in a sustainable and fulfilled reality!

GOD created us in HIS image. In the pursuit of our own devices, we have irreparably corrupted this reality. To re-produce the reality of ourselves in HIS image, out of our corruption, is simply an absolute impossibility. To understand this, simply try and imagine how you would restore your physical body to its best and you would understand the impossibility. Just imagine a 10-year old car new again! This is why we need salvation.

Salvation is a Sovereign act and miracle of GOD's grace, HIS unmerited favor. Salvation is a *progressive* miracle involving *our cooperation* with GOD. HE engineers the process but, we need to agree with what HE means to do. In the process, an actual relationship is developed.

Let us begin our journey of discovery by looking at how GOD broached the subject of salvation in history. Through the lives of specific individuals and, through revelation HE penned through the lives of these individuals, the meaning of salvation is made alive to us.

In fact hundreds of years before CHRIST, the realities in salvation were intricately expressed in written Scripture, in Hebrews texts. And the Hebrew text was translated into Greek text some 200 years B.C. (before CHRIST), by Jewish scholars. GOD engineered this so that the meanings of key Hebrew words and texts would be clearly expressed in another language.

An Overview Of The Bible

The books of the Bible are essentially titled based on specific events, subjects or persons. The intent of doing this is to point to the historical fact of the events; the historical fact of the person and his life; and, most importantly, the historical fact of the communication that GOD established with that person; and, the historical introduction of the reality of the subjects, that GOD presented as being essential and relevant to all of our personal lives.

The Bible is written in testimonial style, and details the way in which GOD has revealed HIMSELF and HIS purposes in actual human history. The salvation of man is one of the most important pursuits of GOD. It is the intimate reality in which we come to know GOD through the realization of the evidence of HIS salvation.

Please understand that salvation is evidenced within us - personally. It is not make belief based on blind faith; but, it is faith in truth that will be *clearly evidenced* within you and me. GOD does not expect blind faith. ***Only falsehood expects blind faith.***

GOD expects you and me to see the evidence of what HE is doing and come to understand HIM in process. The highest purpose of salvation is so that we will come to *know* GOD in such a way to actually come to *love* HIM with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength. That's what GOD wants us each to realize and to possess as our reality of salvation.

Salvation is not religious gamesmanship. Salvation is to be evidenced through a personal relationship with GOD. **No one can bluff or conjure a personal relationship with GOD!** So the proof of salvation when evidenced, is a reality brought into us *by GOD HIMSELF*.

I can't make you a child of GOD. I can't even make myself a child of GOD. **HE** has to make is HIS children in unique, personal terms! And, as HE does this, we are ***being saved***.

How Salvation Was Revealed

Salvation comes from GOD. It does not come from man, and from what has been written so far, we have shown why this is so. About a 1000 years B.C. (before CHRIST), the psalmist David, King Of Israel, came to realize that salvation could only come from GOD.

In Psalm 54:1, the great King declares, **"Save me O LORD by *THY Name!* And vindicate me by *THY power!*"** Helpless in the weakness he experienced in himself, the great King asks GOD to save him by HIS Name and to vindicate or, justify him by HIS power. We need to understand what this means.

About 400 years before David's time, GOD revealed HIS Name through a prophet called Moses. The revelation recorded in Exodus 3:14 (circa 1400 B.C.), reveals GOD's Name as **"I AM WHO I AM"**. So when David cries, **"Save me O LORD by *THY Name*"**, he is declaring that GOD needed to save him in HIS OWN PERSON and BEING - by all THAT HE IS. GOD needed to justify him by HIMSELF and HIS power! Nothing else would work.

GOD had revealed HIS law through Moses, but David discovers that all that he can see in the light of GOD's Law were his own inadequacies. And, in the light of his many an

insurmountable inadequacies, he realizes that only GOD can save him. Otherwise he would simply die in his own sin.

He describes this reality being revealed to him, in a vision from GOD, in another Psalm (18:4-6, 16-17). **"The cords of death encompassed me and *the torrents of ungodliness terrified me.* The cords of Sheol (the Place Of Death) surrounded me; and the snares of death confronted me.**

In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried to my GOD for help; and HE heard my voice out of HIS temple, and my cry for help before HIM came into HIS ears HE sent from on high, HE took me; HE drew me out of many waters. HE delivered me from my strong enemy (death)."

As he judged himself in the light of GOD's Law, David realized that if GOD did not save him and justify him - by HIMSELF - he would simply die.

The more he looked at GOD's Law, the more he realized how impossible it was for him to meet the criteria set in GOD's Law. He saw his own nature and he realized that he would only be fooling himself by thinking that he could save himself, and justify himself through his attempts to practice the Law.

The reality of his helplessness, although he was (a very rich and powerful) King, was so overwhelming that he cries, **"Save me O LORD by THY Name! And vindicate me by THY power!"**

This same cry needs to come alive in our hearts too. Simply because this is the *necessary beginning* to the process of salvation in our personal life - the realization that we *need* to be saved. The realization that if we are not saved, our sin will actually destroy us.

GOD gives clear answers to this cry when the Jewish Kingdom and Nation that David established (in about 1000 B.C.), was in the midst of being destroyed; first by Sargon II, King Of Assyria around 722 B.C. and then by Nebuchadnezzar, King Of Babylon around 586 B.C. During this traumatic period, through three unique individuals Isaiah, Jeremiah

and Ezekiel, who lived in this period, GOD describes the details of HIS Salvation Plan **for all mankind** with amazing clarity.

Each prophet received parts of an amazing jigsaw meant to detail an astonishing plan of salvation. In addition, to these three individuals, there were other prophets who saw specific parts of this plan too, as a complex plan was written for **actual fulfillment** in space and time.

It is one thing to write theology; its a completely different totality, to express in writing a reality for fulfillment in actual events in the future, and in the personal evidence of an actual intimacy with the living GOD.

The details of salvation when actually understood are entirely miraculous and Sovereign in nature. Salvation is a unilateral act by GOD and was not something conjured by the religious establishment of any race or any Christian denomination anywhere in history. Salvation is GOD's PERSONAL advent (arrival and introduction) into the lives of individuals like you and me.

The Advent Of GOD Into Our Lives

Against a background of moral and spiritual decay in the nation of Israel, and the imminent destruction of the nation, Isaiah (circa 700 B.C.) announces the Advent of GOD HIMSELF into our lives (Isaiah 7:14; 9:6-7) in the following terms: "... **the LORD HIMSELF will give you a sign: Behold a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call HIS Name IMMANUEL** (meaning "GOD with us").

...For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on HIS shoulders; and HIS Name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, *Mighty GOD*, Eternal FATHER, Prince Of Peace.

There will be no end to the increase of HIS government or, of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to *establish* it and to *uphold* with justice and righteousness from then on and *forevermore*. The zeal of the LORD Of Hosts will accomplish this."

Astonishing terms of reference are given to the child of the virgin. **HE** is IMMANUEL - "GOD with us!" **HE** is the Mighty GOD. **HE** is the Eternal FATHER! A child born to a virgin! A child who will be the Mighty GOD, the Eternal FATHER and, GOD with us!

The experience of HIM would be Wonderful - forevermore! **HE** would be the Counselor; one who gives *personal counsel* (to all of us across history in the spiritual totality of a living kingdom that transcends space and time!) **HE** will be a giver of peace WHO would become Prince Of Peace in all of our hearts - at the same time, forever! **HE** will establish a Kingdom (from within each of our hearts, in the reality of all that HE Is) that will last forever!

And, the zeal of GOD would accomplish this.

Please be reminded that this is being written 700 B.C.

In its history context, the kingdom that David built was about to be destroyed. In its destruction, GOD announces the reality of a Kingdom that would never end. Built on the shoulders ONE WHO is called the Mighty GOD, the Eternal FATHER and the Prince Of Peace, through the zeal of the LORD Of Hosts.

The title LORD Of Hosts is of importance to us, because this title expresses the Sovereign reality of GOD being the LORD of all the hosts of the heavens and the earth.

Some 700 years after this prophesy was written, [it was even translated by Jewish scholars into Greek around 200 B.C. so that there would be no reinterpretations after the fact] GOD announces the commencement of its fulfillment.

[Why did GOD take such a long time? So that there would be a clear understanding that this is an act engineered by GOD and not by the wiles of man.

And, also please understand that GOD is not confined to space and time; therefore, the reality of this salvation will impact all generations - past, present and future. How? Through "MY Words" which are eternal!]

Through the angel Gabriel (Luke 1:26-35) GOD announces HIS salvation: **"Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from GOD to a city in Galilee, called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendents of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming in. he said to her, "Hail, favored one! The LORD is with you."**

But she was greatly troubled with this statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this might be.

And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with GOD. And behold, you will conceive in your womb, and bear a son, and you shall name HIM JESUS. HE will be great, and will be called the SON OF THE MOST HIGH; and the LORD GOD will give HIM the throne of his father David; and HE will reign over the House Of Jacob forever; and HIS Kingdom will have no end."

And Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

And the angel answered and said to her, "The HOLY SPIRIT will come upon you, and the power of the MOST HIGH will overshadow you; and for that reason the Holy Offspring shall be called the SON Of GOD."

An amazing answer has been enabled to David's cry (from 1000 B.C.) across the dimensions of space and time. Through Joseph and Mary, both descendents of David himself, GOD proclaims the advent of HIS salvation in HIS OWN PERSON incarnated ("made flesh") in human terms into the womb of a virgin called Mary. As the prophet Isaiah declared, the virgin will bear a son, And this son would carry the Name - Mighty GOD.

This son would manifest the reality of GOD with us - IMMANUEL - so that mankind would be able to see GOD in terms they could relate to; and so - by faith in HIM and, ***by HIS faith for them*** - receive the salvation that they would otherwise not be able to receive. HE would be in HIMSELF, a spiritual blueprint for a new man. And, the specifics of salvation would unveil from the spiritual blueprint that HE would fashion in HIS OWN Stature and HIS merits.

In this realization, man will come to see HIM as Wonderful. In this realization man will come to see GOD as their Eternal FATHER. And, in this realization man would come to know HIM as the Prince Of Peace. In this realization would come forth an eternal expression - a continuum - called "salvation".

Catch this please, no one can conjure a reality that is "Wonderful"; bring into your heart the reality of being counseled supernaturally; a reality of being alive to the "Mighty GOD"; a reality of being watched over by the "Eternal FATHER"; or, a conviction of peace in *your* heart, unless, such a reality was true and Sovereign act of GOD!

There is, for example, nothing that I or any one else, can do or say to make JESUS Wonderful ***to you***. Only GOD can do that.

Let's Take A Break And Think

There is something I would like you to think through at this point. Please, take as much time as you want, imagine that you would have the resources of mankind at your disposition, just try and imagine how (and why) you would engineer such a story over a period of some 1400 years of actual human history, from the time of Moses to the time of the birth of JESUS, the SON OF GOD.

What does it take to make up such a story? Never mind the technological constraints that you would have had doing it in 1000 B.C. Just imagine what it would take to make up such a story.

Remember the elements of the story would have to be actually expressed on written documents and in actual events in space and time, through real living individuals who would live in the conviction of having received and written the truth.

Remember also that you will have to ensure the creation of a system that will nurture this record! And, you would have to ensure the survival of this system though war, through conquest and through the actual destruction of the nation chosen to bring forth this reality!

What is the point of doing this? Just to understand very clearly that in the story so far no one in the Christian Church could have made it up either! Because the Church hadn't even come about so far. You see this is a story constructed over space and time; and, when analysed in hindsight, shows that it can't be humanly contrived.

Its message and ***its reality*** are beyond the abilities of the entire human race.

This story involves a reality that no human being can engineer. This story did not involve one man. It involves several characters, some of whom we have mentioned, who in themselves *did not* understand how the story would unfold or, the true meanings that would unfold. They simply wrote what they received, and it was the responsibility of GOD to make it happen - *meaningfully and evidentially.*

Through out Scripture this is the reality that stands behind the writing. GOD will fulfill Scripture. GOD will explain Scripture through fulfillment. GOD will be faithful to HIS Word. In fact, the prophet Jeremiah wrote that GOD is watching over HIS Word to ***"perform it"*** (Jeremiah 1:11)

The preserving of these writings across history would have involved hundreds of others who had little if any understanding of the story, simply because they did not even know that the story was being written with them participating in its unfolding! Please keep this mind, as the story gets more complicated from now on.

And we haven't even come to part where it is to be fulfilled inside of you and me in the 20th century.

How do you conjure something like: Wonderful! Counselor! Mighty GOD! Eternal FATHER! Prince Of Peace! How do you make that happen in the lives of individuals all over history? How do you bluff a salvation that proclaims that it will be proven on these terms? How can human beings conjure something which they will never in themselves be able to reproduce?

You see my friend, the whole Church Of JESUS CHRIST can't conjure a salvation like this is for you and me! It is impossible! The whole Christian Church can't make the reality of

GOD "Wonderful" to you – in your heart! The whole Christian Church can't conjure the reality of the "Mighty GOD" and "Eternal FATHER" to you. It is impossible!

Only GOD can choose to reveal HIMSELF; no one can make HIM do it and, no one can do it for HIM!

The Meaning Of GOD's Advent

The key to salvation is not religion or a concept of religion, it is GOD HIMSELF. HE has to do something. HE has to save us. HE has to be alive in the process. HE has to engineer what is clearly impossible for any human being. HE makes the advent into our reality and our state of being.

HE made this advent in human terms - in human history - so that we would come to understand HIS invisible attributes, HIS eternal power and HIS Divine Nature. HE demonstrated vivid glimpses of all of these through the life of the LORD JESUS CHRIST.

All of this reality will come alive to us, and grow in us, in the PERSON called JESUS, the SON OF GOD. And, in this context HE is called the SON OF GOD because HE is the "spiritual blueprint" by which the sons of man would become actual sons of GOD! And, this is the highest purpose of salvation!

HE would bring into the reality of the Mighty GOD and the Eternal FATHER. **HE** would bring into our experience the reality that GOD is Wonderful! **HE** would bring into us the reality that GOD is our Counselor able to teach us how to live through HIM.

In fact, the Word Of GOD declares that we will **all** be taught of GOD - from the greatest amongst us to the smallest (Jeremiah 31:33-34; John 6:45). HE would establish HIS Words with peace into our hearts! And, in the **revelation** and **fulfillment** of these words will be the **evidence** of our salvation.

HE would have to do it across space and time in a continuum in the lives of millions at the same time! [If the LORD JESUS was a mere man, WHO "erroneously" claimed to be GOD, how would HE do this across space and time?]

This evidence is brought by GOD HIMSELF, into our heart. The Word Of GOD (in Hebrews 9:15; 10:15-18) speaks of the LORD JESUS meditating a Covenant expressing a reality in Truth, in *each* individuals life.

How is this **evidence** brought into our heart? The Word Of GOD (in Hebrews 3:1) proclaims that in this evidence, the LORD JESUS would **actually function** as the Apostle (Messenger) and High Priest (Intermediary) of our confession. Where, our confession in our response to HIM from our heart and mouth (as noted in Romans 10:8-13).

How GOD Engineers/Proclaims

The Evidence Of Salvation

About 30 years after HIS birth, the LORD JESUS began HIS ministry on earth. During HIS three-year ministry, HE explained several aspects of salvation to HIS disciples. One day, a member of the Jewish religious hierarchy, a sincere and very religious man named Nicodemus, came to see HIM. And in the course of their conversation, the LORD JESUS reveals something that is the very crux of the **reality** and **experience** of salvation.

The Word Of GOD (in John 3:1-10) records the salient points of this conversation as follows:

"Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; this man came to HIM by night, and said to HIM, "Rabbi" (meaning Teacher), we know that you have come from GOD as a Teacher; for no one can do these signs (miracles) that YOU do unless GOD is with HIM."

JESUS answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is *born again*, he cannot see the Kingdom Of GOD."

Nicodemus said to HIM, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born can he?"

JESUS answered, "Truly, truly I say to you, unless one is born of Water and the SPIRIT, he cannot enter into the Kingdom Of GOD. That which is born of the

flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the SPIRIT is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going: so is everyone who is born of the SPIRIT."

Nicodemus answered and said to HIM, "How can these things be?"

JESUS answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not understand these things?"

The LORD JESUS makes a startling declaration to Nicodemus, that he must be **born-again** if he was to be able to see the advent of the Kingdom Of GOD. Nicodemus is bemused and he does not understand JESUS' Words.

JESUS then tells him that as a teacher of the nation of Israel, he should understand what HE was saying. Why did JESUS say this? What was meaning behind HIS Words? Why did HE not explain HIMSELF to Nicodemus? Why did Nicodemus not understand what the LORD JESUS was saying?

By the time of the advent of the SON Of GOD as a man, the Jewish religious hierarchy had reduced their religion to an intricate system of laws. The result was a religion that no longer talked about a relationship with GOD, but instead, was entirely focused on man made laws that took the place of the living GOD.

The reality of the Law that came from Moses, that demanded that GOD's people were to love HIM with all of their heart, soul, mind and strength, had been replaced by a set of rules whose practice was supposed to make people good.

No longer was GOD needed. But instead, all one had to do was to follow the rules and one would be "good"! Of course "GOD" was used to validate the rules; but, the fact was that GOD had nothing to do with the rules. They were all human initiatives that screened GOD out of mans reality.

Nicodemus was a product of the religious system. Although he was sincere about his religious practices and convictions, the fact was that he was **sincerely wrong!**

The prophets of old had written centuries earlier that the people of GOD were to await their Messiah. And, written into Scripture were all the salient features of what HE would teach and do, to prove HIS identity. The LORD JESUS had just expressed one facet of teachings that the religious hierarchy was supposed to understand by waiting on GOD.

[The Word Of GOD illustrates this fact by pointing to two persons called Simeon and Anna (see Luke 2:25-38) who recognized the LORD JESUS as the CHRIST even when HE was a Baby!]

But the idea of waiting on GOD was long gone amongst the religious hierarchy. In its place was a religious system of rules that were supposed to make people good. The LORD JESUS did not explain HIMSELF because the leadership had replaced their GOD-given positions with self-denominated delusion.

Nicodemus was one of those who were supposed to know the Messiah when HE came, because it was *his duty* and *his calling* to know this, by keeping his eyes on GOD and, his ears opened to GOD.

Some 600 years earlier (circa 570 B.C.) the LORD GOD, through the prophet Ezekiel, had penned a graphic description and explanation of what the LORD JESUS has just said to Nicodemus.

The details of being born again were described as follows (in Ezekiel 36:25-27): "**I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.**

Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

And I will put MY SPIRIT within you and cause you to walk in MY statutes, and you will be careful to observe MY ordinances."

The LORD JESUS spoke of being born of the Water and the SPIRIT. From what the prophet Ezekiel wrote, we see that being born of the Water is to be supernaturally *washed*

from the filthiness of our idolatry - the worship of religious substitutes and the deification of self.

To be born of the SPIRIT is to have a new heart and a new spirit and, have the indwelling presence of the SPIRIT Of GOD.

The evidence of this reality of being born again would be a coming aliveness of GOD into our hearts so that we **"will be careful to observe MY ordinances."** The fear (reverence) of the LORD would also be the witness supernaturally made alive within us.

And we would have an ***actual desire*** for GOD and HIS purposes alive within ourselves.

Through the prophet Jeremiah (circa 590 B.C.) the details of how this new heart will result in a heart of flesh is described in astonishing fashion: **"But this is the Covenant which I will make with the house Of Israel after those days," declares the LORD. "I will put MY Law within them, and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their GOD, and they shall be MY people.**

And they shall not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know ME, from the least of them to the greatest of them, "declares the LORD, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more" (see Jeremiah 31:33-34).

"They shall be MY people, and I will be their GOD; and I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear (reverence) ME always ... and I will make an everlasting Covenant with them that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; and I will put the fear (reverence) of ME in their hearts so that they will not turn away from ME. And I will rejoice over them...." (see Jeremiah 32:39-41)

"And I will give them a heart to know ME, for I AM the LORD; and they will be MY people, and I will be their GOD, for they will return to ME with their whole heart." (see Jeremiah 24:7)

These Scriptures are saying that the result of being born again would be the reality of returning to GOD, coming to know HIM and, being entirely alive to HIS Word written into

our hearts. The witness alive in us would be the actual reality of the fear (reverence) of the LORD.

This was a reality that Nicodemus did not look forward to. You see the practice of religious laws and regulations had completely skewed the understanding of Scripture. No longer were the leaders of religion interested in what GOD was doing, they had "legalized" and "structured" everything about GOD into place, so that HE need not do anything any more! But there is more!

Nicodemus also spoke of the signs that LORD JESUS was performing. However, Nicodemus while recognizing the fact that the miracles the LORD JESUS was doing were astonishing, yet did not recognize HIM as WHO HE was.

More than 700 years earlier the prophet Isaiah (42:5-9; 35:5-6) had described these miracles in amazing clarity: **"Thus says GOD the LORD, WHO created the heavens and stretched them out, WHO spread out the earth and its offspring, WHO gives breath to the people on it, and spirit to those who walk in it. "I AM The LORD, I have called YOU in righteousness, I will also hold YOU by the hand and watch over YOU, and I will appoint YOU as a Covenant to the people, as a light to the nations.**

To open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the dungeon, and them who dwell in the darkness from the prison. I AM The LORD, that is MY Name; I will not give MY glory to another, nor MY praise to graven images. Behold, the former things have come to pass, now I declare new things; before they spring forth I proclaim them to you."

"....The eyes of the blind shall be opened. And the ears of the deaf will be unstopped. Then the lame will leap like a deer. And the tongue of the dumb will shout for joy. For waters will break forth in the wilderness and streams in the Arabah (desert)."

Why was Nicodemus unable to see? After all he was as compared to those who lived in his time, a "good" and "religious" man. He was someone all of us would call "good".

On hearing his query the LORD JESUS immediately answers: "**Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the Kingdom Of GOD."**

The reason why Nicodemus was unable to see was because he was not born again. Nicodemus needed this miracle because, like us, ***he was inwardly blind to GOD and brings the things of GOD.***

In order to actually see the Kingdom Of GOD, Nicodemus needed a new heart and new spirit (as proclaimed by the prophet Ezekiel). He needed this because, like the rest of us, Nicodemus' inward man was also corrupted by sin.

No matter how good his intentions about GOD were, *he could not see in his own merits.* ***Like all of us, he needed GOD to do a miracle within him so that he could see.***

Sometime later when the Messiah, the LORD JESUS, was crucified, the eyes of Nicodemus would be opened and he would come to recognize the LORD JESUS for WHO HE was, and Nicodemus would come to anoint the body of the CHRIST (or, Messiah) crucified (see John 19:39-40). What was it that made Nicodemus see?

Nicodemus saw, when he was able to receive GOD's Word in JESUS reality. In the reality of the LORD JESUS CHRIST the Word Of GOD finds its true context and meaning.

In fact after HIS resurrection, the LORD JESUS would actually declare something awesome and astonishing (in Luke 24:44): "***...All things which are written about ME in the Law Of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.***"

Please understand what the LORD JESUS is saying here. HE is saying that when HE is no longer physically around, humanity will see all that is written on HIM being actually fulfilled. ***Thousands of Words*** expressing HIS status and HIS power and HIS Testimony will actually be fulfilled!

The LORD JESUS is speaking about the reality of "***those things which cannot be shaken.***" The LORD JESUS is declaring that HE was, and will continue to be, forever and forever, the fulfillment of Scripture!

No human being would have made such a declaration because this is a reality meant to be established over human history and millions of lives - in all eternity. This includes the reality and fulfillment of Scripture in you and me - 2,000 years after these words were spoken! A mere human being cannot even begin to fulfill such a reality. No created person can fulfill a continuum in eternity.

A human being does not have any semblance of the capacity to fulfill such a reality. In fact, no creature can be created who could have such a capacity. Because only GOD can have a capacity that radiates eternity! Only GOD can have a capacity to be everywhere and in every moment of time simultaneously!

This is why the Name Of JESUS is proclaimed in a dynamic reality of salvation today - almost 2,000 years after HIS physical advent on earth. Because, the Scriptures and all of their blessings, promises and life giving sustenance, can **only** come alive in JESUS Name.

Again this is a reality of fulfillment that no one can conjure. Only GOD can fulfill such a reality!

Why Did JESUS Have To Die?

Written into Scripture was the necessity of the Messiah's death. For hundreds of year, from the time of Moses (circa 1350 B.C.), the Jews had been faithfully involved in various forms of sacrifices in which an animal (for example a lamb) was killed to absolve them of their sins.

In fact, the person making the offering was required to lay his hand on the dying animal so that he had everyone else witnessing the sacrifice, would understand clearly the serious nature of sin and, that the wages of sin is death.

Everyone was required to clearly understand that the animal was dying because of their sin. Their sin was being imputed to the animal and through the animals death they were being absolved of their sin.

On any given day, these sacrifices were executed faithfully by the appointed priesthood, in the morning and in the evening. This was faithfully done over a period exceeding a thousand years.

A vivid picture of the foundations of salvation are being transmitted. Some one would have to save us by dying for us; because we cannot in ourselves remove the sin from ourselves. Neither could the animals take away sin, but the ***eternal reality*** of such an undertaking was being foreshadowed - everyday; so that, there would be no misconception of this necessary reality when it was actually proclaimed in space and time with the crucifixion of the Messiah - the LAMB Of GOD.

The prophet Isaiah (**700 B.C.**) recorded an amazing prophetic message (53:3-9) on the death of the Messiah as the LAMB Of GOD.

"HE was despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and like one from whom men hide their face, HE was despised, and *we did not esteem HIM.*

Surely *our* grief's HE HIMSELF bore, and *our* sorrows HE carried; yet we ourselves esteemed HIM stricken, smitten of GOD and afflicted. But HE was pierced through for *our* transgressions, HE was crushed for *our* iniquities; the chastening for *our* well-being fell upon HIM, and by HIS scourging we are healed.

All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on HIM.

HE was oppressed and HE was afflicted, yet HE did not open HIS mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so HE did not open HIS mouth.

By oppression and judgment HE was taken away; and as for HIS generation, who considered that HE was cut off out of the land the living, for the transgression of my people to whom the stroke was due?

HIS grave was assigned with wicked men, yet HE was with a rich man in HIS death, because HE had done no violence, nor was there any deceit in HIS mouth."

1000 years before CHRIST JESUS, King David would record an amazing experience of suffering (in Psalm 22:6-8, 14-18) that he himself never experienced.

"But I am a worm, and not a man, a reproach of men, and despised by the people. All who see me sneer at me; they separate with the lip, they wag the head, saying, " Commit yourself to the LORD; let HIM deliver him; let HIM rescue him, because HE delights in him."

I am poured out like water, all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within me. My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue cleaves to my jaws; and THOU dost lay me in the dust of death, for dogs have surrounded me; a band of evildoers has encompassed me; *they pierced my hands and my feet.* I can count all my bones. They look, they stare at me; *they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.*"

What is recorded here is what the experienced of crucifixion is like. Crucifixion was a mode of execution invented in the time of the Roman Empire several centuries after David's Psalm was actually written.

In this same Psalm (22:26b-31) David also records an amazing future that results from this crucifixion: **"Those who seek HIM will praise the LORD. Let your heart live forever! All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will worship before THEE. ...**

All those who go down to the dust will bow before HIM, even he who cannot keep his soul alive. Posterity will serve HIM; it will be told of the LORD to the coming generation. They will come and will declare HIS righteousness to a people who will be born, that HE has performed it."

This passage points to the exalted status of the LORD JESUS CHRIST - as the Saviour of the world - as a result of all that will be achieved in HIS Name by HIM in actual human history. Please take note of the words, ***"that HE has performed it."***

Why Was The LORD JESUS Exalted?

The LORD JESUS was exalted because HE rose from the dead on the third day after HIS crucifixion. HIS resurrection vindicated all that HE died for. And the power of HIS resurrection is proven in the millions of lives that have been supernaturally saved and transformed over centuries - in and by HIS Name. The reality of HIS resurrection will be witnessed in a Kingdom - with no end- in life everlasting.

The cry of David: **"Vindicate me by THY power"**, is made alive through the resurrection of the LORD JESUS CHRIST.

Scripture attests to this reality of HIS resurrection and its consequences through David (1,000 B.C.): **"THOU has ascended on high, THOU hast led captive THY captives. ... Blessed be the LORD WHO daily bears our burden, the GOD WHO is our salvation. GOD is to us GOD of deliverances; and to GOD the LORD belongs escapes from death" (see Psalm 68:19-20).**

"For THOU wilt not abandon my soul to Sheol (the place of death); neither wilt THOU allow THY HOLY ONE to undergo decay" (see Psalm 16:10).

The prophet Daniel (circa 550 B.C.) records the reality of the LORD JESUS receiving a Kingdom without end: **"I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven ONE like a Son Of Man was coming, and HE came up to the Ancient Of Days and was presented before HIM.**

And, to HIM was given dominion, glory and Kingdom, *that all the peoples, nations, and men of every language might serve HIM.*

HIS dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and HIS Kingdom is one which will not be destroyed" (see Daniel 7:13-14).

The apostle Paul explains the testimonial reality of the Gospel Of GOD (in Romans 1:1-4): **"...the Gospel Of GOD, which HE (GOD) promised beforehand through HIS prophets in the Holy Scriptures, concerning HIS SON, WHO was born of a descendent of David according to the flesh, WHO was declared (proven) the SON Of GOD with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit Of Holiness, JESUS CHRIST our LORD."**

The apostle further records (in 1 Corinthians 15:3-8): **"For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that CHRIST died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that HE was buried, and that HE was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that HE appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve."**

After that HE appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; then HE appeared to James, then to all the apostles; and last of all, as it were to one untimely born, HE appeared to me also."

Please catch this. The object of our story is a PERSON called JESUS! WHO, never by HIMSELF wrote anything about HIMSELF or, HIS Words. Everything that has been said about HIM, ***before HIS advent*** and ***after HIS crucifixion and resurrection*** was written by others - across some 1500 years of actual human history!

Everything about HIM and HIS teachings and their effects were faithfully spelled out by others - ***to be proven by HIM.***

The proof of everything is in the reality of salvation that HE would bring into our life in persona terms! HE would reveal HIMSELF *in our heart* in a reality in which we will come to actually love HIM!

HE would make HIMSELF alive to us so that we would even be able to live by HIM!

Now how can such a reality be false? Please understand this very carefully! It is absolutely impossible to conceive a more exacting basis for the transmission of Truth

across space and time! Because this is Truth precisely defined for actual, growing fulfillment.

So how do we receive GOD's gift of salvation?

RECEIVING SALVATION

Christians have received and continue to receive salvation in all sorts of ways. GOD's genius will always remain unmatched. Some experiences of salvation are spectacular, arising from a spectacular rush of joy and freedom in the inward man.

All experiences of being born again are deeply personal, sometimes instantaneous and sometimes gradual. Always overwhelming! Always experiential.

My personal experience was one in which I heard the loud and audible voice of the LORD JESUS, in supreme authority, rebuke my hard heartedness and my pride. I was born again without even opening my mouth.

A very dear friend of mine, a minister of GOD, felt an unseen hand propel him forward to accept, before a Pastor, the LORD JESUS CHRIST as LORD and Savior. This happened at a public meeting in a Church that he had walked into

I watched a young engineer I was explaining the gospel to, simply say, "so that's why HE had to die"; and, as tears rolled down her eyes, the reality of being born again overwhelmed her. A friend in the ministry came to the LORD when she met HIM face to face in an open vision, when she was about to commit suicide.

A simple house wife I met during ministry told me that she was crippled and dying, when she gasped, "JESUS, I hear that you are able to heal people." HE appeared to her and healed her instantaneously. She also received her salvation in the same process, as she received the LORD JESUS as LORD and Savior.

There are no hard and fast rules of receiving salvation but, there is a necessary reality of the **need** for salvation that must come alive **in us**. Sometimes GOD engineers that reality without our understanding and, we come to receive HIM.

In my own experience, the ringing silent confession from my heart: "O my GOD, GOD is real!" was what hit me like a ton of bricks! That ringing silent confession was in my heart and mind for a week after I heard the voice of the LORD rebuke me!

A Personal Note On Spiritual Growth

Over the years I have learnt that talking to GOD always involves the heart. I have learnt that **sincerity** and **truthfulness** are attitudes that GOD respects and **always** responds to - in HIS Way and in HIS Time.

Over the years I have watched GOD train me to use my heart to come into HIS Presence. Over the years I have seen GOD show me the reality of actually coming to love HIM.

All of these are the realities, alive and growing, in HIS salvation.

Realities Of The Heart That GOD Will Respond To

There are many realities and facets to entering salvation and growing in our salvation, that GOD conveys in unique terms. The LORD JESUS expressed these realities as noted below:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom Of Heaven." AMEN!

[Where "**poor in spirit**" refers to those who realize the poverty of their spiritual status. Salvation will open to those who realize that they are poor in spirit. That they need GOD.]

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." AMEN!

[Salvation will open to those who are earnestly seeking the comfort of GOD in their sorrows. Salvation will bring comfort peace and joy into our hearts, in a reality above and beyond the sorrows of our earthly existence.]

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see GOD!" AMEN!

[Salvation will open those who have the motives of a true and sincere purity in heart before GOD.]

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be satisfied." AMEN!

[Salvation will open to those who hunger for that which is right and true. Salvation will bring the reality of satisfaction and fulfillment into our heart and mind in a peace that is above our understanding.]

In all these words the LORD JESUS is actually also expressing realities which will be realized in HIM, in which, GOD's hand will ***always*** be revealed to ***any*** individual. GOD reveals and expresses HIMSELF to those who recognize their need for HIM. These are *realities* that *need* to be alive in our hearts.

The Word Of GOD Speaks Clearly On Salvation

The Word Of GOD (in Romans 10:8-13) declares: "... **the Word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart**" - that is, the Word Of Faith.

.... If you *confess with your mouth* **JESUS as LORD**, and *believe in your heart* that GOD raised HIM from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

For the Scripture says, "**Whoever** believes in HIM **will not be disappointed**." For, "**whoever** will call upon the Name of the LORD (JESUS) **will be saved**.""

There are two principal expressions mentioned here. The heart that believes. And, the mouth that confesses what the heart takes possession of.

The heart and mouth speak of an actual response to what GOD has opened into us. This book has been written with the sole purpose of facilitating this response to GOD's voice.

Salvation and its attendant processes result from all that the LORD JESUS is realized to be. This realization is a response to GOD's Voice. We are going to pray in this reality of GOD's convicting Presence being alive to our heart and mind.

Praying With Conviction

Will you please pray this prayer with me, in GOD's Presence. Please pray with your heart. Please pray with conviction, of the need for HIM in your life. Please understand each aspect of this invitation to pray.

We will pray in the conviction that GOD is the ALMIGHTY and All-Sufficient ONE.

We will pray in the conviction that GOD is our FATHER.

We will pray in the conviction that salvation is a reality revealed in the LORD JESUS CHRIST. Because HE died for us. Because HE bore our sins on the cross, in suffering and humiliation. Because HE forgave us from the depths of HIS heart. Because HE was vindicated by the power of GOD by being raised from the dead.

We will pray in the conviction that the cross is a reality of love that cannot lie.

We will pray in the conviction that only by being born again will we be able to see the Kingdom Of GOD.

We will pray in the conviction that we can only be born again in the reality of JESUS as LORD and Savior.

Please pray this prayer aloud, with conviction from your heart and your mouth.

This is between you and ALMIGHTY GOD. No one else can enter into the reality of this sanctuary of life that GOD opens to you.

The Prayer For Salvation

"ALMIGHTY GOD, I know that YOU are speaking to me. In your mercy, YOU have enabled me to know that YOU are speaking to me. I am thankful that this is YOUR moment in my life.

FATHER, open my heart to the reality of JESUS CHRIST, so that I can receive HIM in true conviction by YOUR grace.

FATHER, I know that I need YOU in my life. FATHER, I know that I need salvation. FATHER, I know that I am bound by sin.

FATHER, I know that I need the assurance of eternal life, to be alive in my heart. FATHER, I know that only YOU can save me.

FATHER, I know that YOU have saved me in, and by, the LORD JESUS CHRIST. FATHER, I know that the LORD JESUS CHRIST is my salvation.

FATHER GOD, open my heart to YOU in the LORD JESUS CHRIST.

I realize that the LORD JESUS gave HIMSELF for me on the cross. I realize that the LORD JESUS paid the price for my sins and my transgressions. With my heart, I receive the words that the LORD JESUS spoke over my life from the cross: **"FATHER, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing."**

FATHER, in the reality of HIS love and forgiveness, I receive the LORD JESUS as my LORD and my Savior, so that I can belong to YOU in HIS merits. FATHER, I realize that salvation comes by the LORD JESUS alone through all that HE has accomplished for me - in HIS PERSON, HIS Nature and HIS merits. And I ask FATHER, that YOU forgive me and enable me to receive the LORD JESUS as my salvation.

FATHER, I ask for a new heart and a new spirit, so that I can see your Kingdom. FATHER, I ask that I be born of the Water that will cleanse and wash me from all my idols and from all my filthiness, and pray that I be born of YOUR SPIRIT so that I can enter YOUR Kingdom, in JESUS Name.

I ask FATHER, that you put YOUR SPIRIT within me and cause me to walk in YOUR Way. In JESUS Name, I thank YOU for the miracle of salvation. AMEN!

Being Born Again

"In the Name Of JESUS, the Name that is above every name, welcome to the Kingdom Of GOD! AMEN!"

Being born again gives us an amazing insight on how GOD works in each one of our lives - forever. In the reality of being born again, GOD gives us a vivid picture of how HE is able to work things into our very being.

The discovery of an inward man alive to GOD is however, a mere beginning. What GOD means to bring forth from now on in our lives, is meant to nurture what has been planted within us. GOD will work with us in the reality of the LORD JESUS CHRIST.

GOD Nurtures Us From Within Ourselves

Being alive to GOD is a sacred reality realized inwardly. It is not an external reality. But, it is a private and deeply personal communion with the LORD JESUS. Remember the purpose of life is to actually come to love the LORD our GOD with all of our heart, with all of our soul, with all of our mind and with all of our strength.

The purpose of life is to come to love GOD in the actual realization of HIM in our daily lives, in all that we do in word and deed. And in the reality of this miracle, brought by GOD within each one of us in unique terms, to actually come to love each other in HIS beauty. All this is going to happen from within you and me.

Nurture this inward reality and GOD will cause you to grow in leaps and bounds. Learn to communicate with the LORD through your heart. Communicate with HIM with conviction in your heart. Learn to commit your doubts, your fears, your lack of understanding, your questions, etc., to the LORD. And leave it with HIM, HE will give you the answers in HIS time.

Make time each day when you are all alone with the LORD. Read the Word Of GOD with HIM (simply say, "come LORD JESUS") and, learn how to talk to HIM. Address GOD as your FATHER. And ask the LORD JESUS to pray with you in HIS SPIRIT.

You Will Need The Right Mentor

Look for a Pastor who will be able to nurture your growth. When you find him, GOD will bring into your heart a sense of oneness with him. You will know it clearly when you have found the right person because you will have sense of belonging alive *within* you. Don't base your decision on what looks nice on the outside. But, ask GOD to give you the sense of belonging from within.

Take your time about finding the right mentor. There is no hurry. I found my mentor after two years! But when I found him I knew that this was the man GOD wanted me to learn from. Remember GOD is a Teacher, human beings like me are vessels HE uses.

Deep within you, there must be the conviction that the LORD is in charge of your spiritual growth. Because only GOD can see you and teach you in the reality of who you are, according to your specific needs and, according to HIS plan for your life. But, GOD almost always uses human tutors in the process of teaching us.

A good Pastor is worth his weight in gold; but remember, that he is only human with his own frailties. Don't make an idol of him, but do make sure that you respect him and the office in which he stands in. Keep him in your prayers. Hear what he teaches with your heart and, ask the LORD to write the Truth with understanding into you. One day in the future you will discover the miracle of how GOD teaches!

Being Childlike Before GOD

Be prepared to learn. To learn, you must be a child before GOD. Always ask GOD to write HIS Word with understanding in your heart and into your imaginative mind. Always, ask HIM to give you HIS Understanding. **Ask with conviction!** And, ask the LORD to help you persevere with your convictions in HIM.

Always ask HIM to write Truth into your heart. Always ask HIM for the reality in which you will come to **know** HIM. Always ask HIM for the Wisdom to apply HIS Word in your life.

Above all this, always ask GOD to reveal HIS Word *in the reality of the LORD JESUS CHRIST.*

The Centrality Of CHRIST JESUS To The Unveiling Of Salvation

JESUS said, "**I AM the Way, and the Truth, and the Life; no one comes to the FATHER, but through ME.**" Remember that HE is also the fulfillment of the Scripture.

Therefore, true understanding of Scripture will only come as you are able to see HIM. Always keep your eyes on the LORD JESUS CHRIST. When HE comes alive to you, you will see GOD and come to know HIM and, come to actually love HIM.

A Christian is someone who knows GOD and loves GOD and expresses the reality of GOD in all he does in word and deed. Such a reality can only be realized from the heart, in the reality of the LORD JESUS CHRIST.

You need to see yourself becoming such a Christian. And, you need to commit the vision of becoming one, into GOD's hand, so that GOD's SPIRIT, WHO is called the HOLY SPIRIT, will make the miracle unfold from within your heart.

Remember, the task of making you a Christian lies in GOD's Hand; but, the hunger and desire to become one belongs to your heart.

Keep Your Focus On GOD

You probably would have come to read this book through someone. Please ask them to take you to their Church or to recommend one to you. Go there, and ask GOD to guide you from there.

The Word Of GOD proclaims: "**The hearing ear and the seeing eye, the LORD had made both of them.**" This reality belongs to the new heart and new spirit that GOD has given you.

The discovery of GOD is the purpose of life. It is also the greatest experience of life. It is also the means by which life finds its true meaning and fulfillment. The discovery of GOD is an adventure like no other.

In the pursuit of GOD, we discover HIS greatness and the new reality of living in HIM; of living by HIM; and, of living for HIM. The realization of HIS awesome wonder is a living and growing blessing - forever.

Remember, this discovery opens only from the heart of the LORD JESUS CHRIST. The heart of the LORD JESUS is opened at the cross. Ask and you will receive. Seek and you will find. Knock at HIS heart and, the Door of HIS Name will open to your heart and, you will begin to actually know HIM. GOD bless you.

The next chapter describes the reality of salvation.

THE MEANING AND EXPERIENCE OF SALVATION

We have said that in salvation GOD gives us a new heart and new spirit. HE puts HIS SPIRIT within us and HE causes us to walk in HIS ways. HE declares that HE will write HIS Law upon our hearts and, will enable us to know HIM and to reverence HIM.

GOD actually declares that HE will change us. The Word Of GOD actually uses a term called "**transform**" from the Greek word "**metamorphoo**" which, involves the idea of a "**change of form**" within our inward man of heart and mind, resident in our inward parts of spirit and soul!

Knowing HIM and reverencing HIM are all expressions in which GOD's salvation is realized in our heart and our mind, and in our lives, as a fully transformed lifestyle.

But, what exactly are the different aspects of this salvation that we should come to realize through our new heart and our new spirit? What aspects of our salvation should we come to realize in the reality of GOD's SPIRIT being within us and, GOD writing HIS Law upon our heart? How do we come to understand that we are growing in the LORD, in the right way?

Five Pictures Of Salvation

We shall outline **five** pictures in which salvation should unfold and develop in each and every one of our lives. This is something that we can each monitor as we grow in the LORD.

At first reading, some of what we will present in this chapter may seem overwhelming but, come back and re-read this portion asking the LORD for enlightenment. Drawing from GOD must become a functional reality alive in us if we are going to grow. So, this is one way of starting with HIM!

We **need** to take hold of these five pictures of "salvation reality" in which GOD will reveal HIMSELF to us, so that we begin to learn how to live by HIM. Each of these five pictures are meant to come alive within us, and from us, as a growing proof of salvation. In this growing proof of salvation, the actuality of GOD's great love for us will be realized inwardly.

Salvation is a reality that we come to realize in the LORD JESUS CHRIST; in all that HE has done for us and, in all that HE becomes to us, in the unfolding of a living relationship.

Salvation is a reality that unfolds through HIM in an actual relationship. Salvation is realized in terms of all that HE has fulfilled on our behalf. Salvation is a reality that unveils **in HIS power - never**, in our strength. This is a basic framework of expectation that we need to develop in HIM.

Salvation testifies that GOD has ***fully provided*** in the LORD JESUS - by faith in HIM - the means by which we grow through GOD's provision, rather than in our own strength! This means that all of us are meant to experience GOD's hand on our life. We should each be experiencing the power of HIS salvation grace in our lives.

In HIS death and resurrection, the LORD JESUS fulfilled everything that would enable ***all of us*** to experience a growing reality of salvation. In Luke 22:44, the LORD JESUS proclaimed that **"all things which are written about ME in the Law Of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."**

In the context of this fulfillment proclaimed in Luke 22:44, we are going to "paint" the five pictures of salvation using the Jewish sacrifices recorded in the Law Of Moses (circa 1400 B.C.). There were five offerings in all. Each offering offers a distinct picture of salvation that we are to come to realize through the LORD JESUS CHRIST.

The five offerings recorded in the Law Of Moses are the Sin Offering, the Burnt Offering, the Meal Offering, the Peace Offering and, the Guilt Offering.

In the Word Of GOD, five is a prophetic expression of grace - GOD's unmerited favour in our lives. Each of the offerings paint spiritual pictures of how our salvation should unfold in HIS grace, as we grow in the LORD JESUS CHRIST.

GOD established the fulfillment of these sacrifices through the LORD JESUS CHRIST. This is why the LORD JESUS declares that all that is written of HIM in the Law Of Moses must be fulfilled.

Given the reality of all that **"must be fulfilled"** in CHRIST JESUS, we need to catch hold of the reality of this fulfillment being achieved in our life and, in the lives of all mankind who will in their freewill enter the salvation realized in JESUS Name!

The five pictures express the awesome wonder of the grace of HIS salvation, that is a tangible expression and proof of the reality that **"GOD Is Love!" AMEN!**

[AMEN! is an expression of the **certainty** of the reality and fulfillment of something in and by GOD HIMSELF, that we have received in HIS Name. Remember David's cry: **"Save me O LORD by THY Name!"** AMEN! proclaims some aspect of this fulfillment in HIS Name, being realized!]

In discussing our five pictures, we will not discuss the details of the sacrifices per se, but will instead focus on the meanings that one out of each sacrifice.

The five pictures can be summarized as follows:

- ❖ **The Sin Offering fulfilled** presents a picture of an actual release from sin.
- ❖ **The Guilt Offering fulfilled** presents a picture of an actual release from guilt so that we can function in the freedom of sincerity and truth from our inward man before GOD and, towards each other.
- ❖ **The Burnt Offering fulfilled** presents a picture of us actually becoming chosen, anointed and appointed vessels of GOD, able to function in GOD's will and appointed purpose.
- ❖ **The Meal Offering fulfilled** presents a picture of our salvation being expressed in all that we do in word and deed, as a blessing in the Body of CHRIST and before GOD.
- ❖ **The Peace Offering fulfilled** presents a picture of coming to know and to love GOD from all that is within us, in an increasing reality of the peace of being alive in HIM and by HIM.

All five pictures need to find their growing fulfillment in each one of our lives. As we see this fulfillment being established in our lives, through faith in the LORD JESUS CHRIST, we will come to realize the awesome actuality of GOD.

The First Picture: A Release From Sin

The first picture of a release from sin is derived from a sacrifice recorded in the Word Of GOD as the Sin Offering. In its recorded context, the Sin Offering was the compulsory offering that laid the basis of all the other offerings. The Sin Offering was always made before any other offerings could be made. It was compulsory in all of the celebrations of **"designated feasts"** in the Jewish calendar.

Before any other type of offering could be made, a sin offering was necessary. What was the reason? Sin is in the nature of mankind and sin imprisons us and prevents us from obtaining GOD's blessings and promises.

We have to be released from the bondage of sin before we can enter the reality of taking hold of GOD's blessings as an actual realization possessed in our heart and mind.

The salvation message is very clear, sin has to be dealt with, before GOD can freely work in our lives and bring *HIS **blessings*** alive into us. There are no exceptions, because we have all sinned and have come short of the glory of GOD.

We are all unable to experience the reality of the freedom of GOD's glory expressed - in Truth; because, we have a nature that actually lives in falsehood and in rebellion to GOD.

The apostle Paul, writing in the Book Of Romans (7:18-25) puts it this way: **"For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the wishing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not.**

For the good that I wish, I do not do; but I practice the very evil that I do not wish. But if I am doing the very thing I do not wish, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.

I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wishes to do good. For I joyfully concur with the Law Of GOD in the inner man, but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind, and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members.

**Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?
Thanks be to GOD through JESUS CHRIST our LORD! ... "**

There is a reality in CHRIST JESUS our LORD, in which we are set free from sin. This fulfillment is the actual fulfillment of the Sin Offering realized in our life. You see the LORD fulfilled the Sin Offering on our behalf; but, we need to realize the full impact of this fulfillment in our free will from within us.

As proclaimed by the prophet Isaiah, the LORD JESUS fulfilled the reality of the Sin Offering, by taking upon HIMSELF the sins of the world. On the cross HE declared, **"FATHER, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."**

Imprisoned in our nature of sin, and in slavery to the many forms of our own specific sins, we are ***all*** unable to overcome our sinfulness in ourselves.

We are imprisoned in darkness and some of us are actually prisoners in dungeons so deep that we are totally submerged in the sins that consume us, in a reality of living death (for example a drug addict or, an alcoholic or, one imprisoned in demonic oppression or, one imprisoned in sexual lust or, some other sexual perversion).

"They do not know what they are doing" is therefore, an amazingly accurate description of the entire human race in the conduct of our affairs, both public and private. And, this is because sin mutilates the human person.

We enter into the reality of deliverance from sin by ***faith*** in the LORD JESUS and in the *fact* that the LORD JESUS has taken away our sins and covered our sins in HIS merits. By confessing and acknowledging the reality of all that HE has done, from our own heart, we enter into HIS merits.

From a position of being alive in HIS merits, we take hold (by faith in HIM) of the reality of deliverance that is available to us in JESUS Name - in power of ***HIS faith*** that overcame our sin.

This is strictly, a personal reality that one has to receive in oneself. No one can do it for us. When received, we experience the burden of sin lift off our heart and mind.

And in time, in the perseverance of our faith in HIM and by HIM, the peace, the joy and, the love of the LORD, will flood our inward being. And, this freedom will become part and parcel of our inward reality in HIM.

This inward freedom is the proof of the faith that we have each chosen to express in HIM and by HIM. The LORD responds to our faith in HIM, on an "on-line basis". Because, HE is alive reigning in the power of HIS salvation.

The LORD JESUS fulfilled the Sin Offering and we enter into this fulfillment through repentance from our sins and a willingness to overcome the sin *in HIS strength*, by faith in HIM and by faith in the reality of HIS love that caused HIM to go to the cross for us.

The LORD JESUS therefore, actually needs to take away our sin, in practical terms. This is not a theological proclamation nor, is it blind faith; but instead, we are speaking of a practical and necessary reality of being released from sin that we must come to realize in our inward parts.

Being forgiven is one thing, getting rid of the actual sin - forever - is another thing. Salvation gives us both these realities.

The LORD JESUS needs to come alive in us, in HIS strength and we will *all* be able to overcome our sin by HIM and through HIM. GOD works this into us *in HIS own timetable* as HE changes our nature.

Given time in the LORD, no longer will sin rule us, but instead, the beauty and excellence of JESUS HIMSELF will reign in our hearts. We will in fact become partakers of HIS Nature by learning to live in HIM, by HIM and through HIM. All this is possible by faith in HIM and through HIM. ***The supernatural results - in Truth - will prove that our faith is true.***

Learning to live in the LORD JESUS, by HIM and through HIM is a process referred to as ***being perfected*** in HIM. It is a gradual process. But it is a growing process that is fully experiential.

In the Sin Offering, this reality of being ***perfected*** was symbolized by the priest making the offering, sprinkling the blood of the offering seven times (seven depicting perfection)

before the veil that covered a special place designated as "**the Holy Place**" of the temple where the offering was being made. The Holy Place of the temple represented a place called the Tent Of Meeting. The Tent Of Meeting or Holy Place is in prophetic terms meant to be the fulfillment of the reality of communication with GOD.

The Sin Offering that the LORD JESUS completed enables us to commune with GOD in JESUS Name. That is, when our sin is covered with GOD in JESUS Name. That is, when our sin is covered in JESUS Name, we can commune with GOD. ***A pure heart is imputed to us - in HIS merits.*** Again the reality of communion is fully experiential.

So the reality of Sin Offering accomplished in JESUS Name is fully realizable in our inward man. Today! Almost 2,000 years after the fact. There is actual deliverance that can be experienced as GOD deals with us individually, in HIS timetable of salvation specific to each one of us.

The Name JESUS, or "**YESHUA**" in Hebrew, means "**GOD Saves!**" So in the Name Of JESUS, the reality of "**Save me O LORD by THY Name and, vindicate me by THY power**", the cry of David is being fulfilled so that, ultimately, the whole human race can receive of this salvation by HIM in PERSON.

So "JESUS" or "YESHUA" is the Name that establishes the realization in which GOD fulfills the reality of, "**Save me O LORD by THY Name**"; the cry of David - answered, in each one of our lives.

In all this, please understand that realities like communing with GOD cannot be conjured by human ingenuity. So the proof of our salvation is clearly proven in the realization of communion with GOD in JESUS Name.

When we experience GOD's Presence we need to always remember that this is a testimony of the fulfillment of the Sin Offering being expressed to us in experiential terms. In this experience we are changed. And, sin loses its hold on our inward parts as we are transformed.

So, we need to always remember that a growing release from sin is a necessary reality in our salvation realized. The product of our release from sin is the formation of our character and personality in truth. We must understand that this release from sin is of great importance because GOD can't bless a crooked person who will in his sinful nature misuse the blessings of GOD to his own detriment.

The Second Picture: A Release From Guilt

The Guilt Offering was the offering for deliberate sin. The reality of guilt that results from deliberate sin, imprisons us from within and prevents us from discovering our true potentials in GOD. Guilt also prevents us from seeing ourselves as we actually are and, in terms of our true potential in GOD.

We all have the capacity of committing sins deliberately. We know that something is wrong, and yet we do it. The prophet Isaiah declared (in Isaiah 53:10) that the Messiah would become a Guilt Offering. If we are not released from the wickedness of deliberate sin, we will never receive the blessing of functioning in the freedom of truth from an inward man able to function in sincerity and truthfulness.

Historically in the Jewish sacrifices, the Guilt Offering was a *personal* offering made when an individual recognized his deliberate sinfulness and offered a Guilt Offering for his premeditated sin. This was the practice in ancient times.

The LORD JESUS took upon HIMSELF our transgressions. The prophet Isaiah (700 B.C.) records the reality (in 53:4-5) as follows: **"Surely *our* griefs HE HIMSELF bore, and *our* sorrows HE carried; yet we ourselves esteemed HIM stricken, smitten of GOD and afflicted. But HE was pierced through for *our* transgressions. HE was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for *our* well-being fell upon HIM, and by HIS scourging we are healed."**

Deliberate sin has to be dealt with an actual acknowledgement of the sin, by asking GOD to forgive us and release us from the guilt that disfigures our personality, and its expression. Sometimes the release also involves asking forgiveness from the persons that we have injured deliberately.

Again this is something that can only be accomplished in the LORD's strength. HE has to be involved with us in the process. Because repentance is not simply asking for forgiveness but, repentance must ultimately involve ***an actual change of heart.***

Since it is impossible for us to change our heart in ourselves, the LORD JESUS must be involved to bring forth the *miracle* of actual change and transformation. And when this is accomplished the reality is entirely experiential.

We experience the reality of being healed, being delivered and being made whole in ourselves and in our relationships. Again, no one can conjure such a reality.

Included in the miracle of salvation is actual experiential release from sin according to GOD's timing. When I was born again in 1988, I immediately experience a release of strength within me to pursue the things of GOD. Three months later I received deliverance from alcoholism.

There have been different periods in my life when the HOLY SPIRIT has led me into forgiving others who had hurt me and, in me seeking release for sins I had inflicted on others. My first experience of this was with regards to my own parents whom I had hurt.

Sometimes GOD asks us to meet with people face to face while at other times HE will give us a release from guilt through prayer alone. But *a/ways*, HE needs to bring the release inside of us. When actual deliverance takes place, the sin will have no power over us anymore and, there will no longer be the reality of guilt within us.

In all this, it is important that we understand that release from guilt ***is not a question of will power*** but the reality of an actual release and deliverance from the bondage of sin, involving our own free will.

In this process, GOD in fact ***enables*** our free will, to actually enter the reality of choosing what is right and, actually doing what is right. And, in the process HE heals and delivers us through our free will expression of making right choices in all that we do in word and deed.

Remember that the purpose of our release from guilt is to enable us to function in sincerity and truth. Sincerity and truthfulness are necessary prerequisites to receiving GOD's treasures.

The Book Of James (1:17-18) puts it this way: " **Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the FATHER of lights, with WHOM there is no variation or shifting shadow. In the exercise of HIS will HE brought us forth by the Word Of Truth, so that we might be, as it were, the first fruits among HIS creatures.**"

We need to always remember that our FATHER can only bless us when the Word Of Truth finds expression in us. And this only happens in the reality of the LORD JESUS CHRIST. This is why HE declared (in John 14:6), "**I AM the Way, and the Truth, and the Life; no one comes to the FATHER, but through ME.**"

The Third Picture: Becoming A Vessel Of GOD

The Burnt Offering is the offering of ourselves as chosen, anointed and appointed vessels to GOD. This is a process referred to as being consecrated. The Burnt Offering pictures our growing willingness to belong to GOD and HIS purposes. To **actually take delight** in the fear of GOD.

The Burnt Offering involves a reality of **actually wanting** to belong to GOD. Such a reality is brought alive into us as a part and parcel of our salvation. It is the most crucial aspect of realizing our salvation, as GOD works within us in every day terms to fashion us in HIS purpose, according to HIS Witness to our heart. GOD actually engineers this witness of belonging to HIM as a living reality in us.

The Word Of GOD (in 1 John 5:10) explains this witness within us, in the following terms: "**The one who believes in the SON Of GOD has the witness in himself.**" The witness is GOD's provision of HIS assurance in us, of the things that remain. Through this witness GOD causes our growth. HE enables us to see HIM and to know HIM. HE enables us to discover our purpose in HIM. This too is salvation!

The LORD JESUS demonstrated the fulfillment of the offering of this sacrifice of the Burnt Offering by committing HIMSELF to the FATHER, just before HE died on the cross: **"FATHER, into THY Hands I commit MY Spirit."**

HE fulfilled the reality of actually belonging to GOD our FATHER when HE arose from the dead. This reality of belonging to GOD is configured in the power of HIS resurrection that actually enables us to be born again. And, this is the power that also enables us to grow spiritually. This is the power that David cried for: **"Vindicate me by THY power!"** Again, this is something that no one can conjure for you or me.

While the resurrection of the LORD JESUS CHRIST is documented by eye witness accounts in the Bible, the reality of the power of HIS resurrection is documented in the *transformed* lives of millions spanning space and time. Lives have been dramatically changed by the power of the risen CHRIST. This is not religion, it is the actual reality of ALMIGHTY GOD HIMSELF!

In HIS fulfillment of the Burnt Offering, proven through HIS resurrection, we in turn are able to grow, by faith in CHRIST JESUS, to actually belong to GOD as part and parcel of the reality of our salvation. This reality of grace finds expression through faith in the LORD JESUS CHRIST.

The reality of power that enables our spiritual growth - that this realm of faith draws upon - is HIS resurrection power. The personal testimony of the Apostle Paul recorded in the Word Of GOD proclaims this reality as follows: **"That I may know HIM (the LORD JESUS), and the power of HIS resurrection."**

The reality of the power of HIS resurrection is not only a reality documented by Paul but is something meant to be fully experienced by **every** born again Christian.

If JESUS was not risen and seated at the right hand of the FATHER, as proclaimed by the Word Of GOD, this experience of growing to know GOD, through the LORD JESUS and by the LORD JESUS, would be the **absolute impossibility**. In fact, the entire reality of salvation would be evidenced within anybody without resurrection power.

Please understand that all that is being described as being actual realities in salvation can't be engineered by human beings. It is something that GOD alone performs.

These are realities that no created being can reproduce; these are realities that belong to the stature of GOD. GOD is Truth. And, salvation comes only from GOD. Therefore, salvation in and by the LORD JESUS is Truth realized.

The prophet Jeremiah (circa 600 B.C.) proclaims this reality as follows: **"And the Word Of The LORD came to me saying, "What do you see Jeremiah?" And I said, "I see a rod of an almond tree. "Then the LORD said to me, "You have seen well, for I AM watching over MY Word to perform it.""**

We began this book by speaking of that which cannot be shaken. It is written in the Word Of GOD that the **"Word Of The LORD abides forever!"** It is written in the Word Of GOD: **"Heaven and earth will pass away, but MY Words will not pass away."**

Please understand that even at this reading of the ancient sacrifices and the other Scriptures being mentioned, GOD is performing HIS Word. This reality of salvation declares that this will always be so! AMEN!

In the case of Moses' writings, written with little understanding of the actual meanings, GOD is fulfilling the meaning of the Scriptures written in 1400-1350 B.C., today, in the reality of the LORD JESUS CHRIST - almost 3,400 years later. Please understand that such a reality cannot be false!

The Fourth Picture: Salvation Expressed In Word And Deed

The Word Of GOD in Colossians 3:17 reads: **"And whatever you do in word or in deed, do all in the Name of the LORD JESUS, giving thanks through HIM to GOD the FATHER."** This is the fulfillment of the Meal Offering.

The Meal Offering demonstrates the practical reality of salvation in our daily living. We are each meant to express our appreciation of salvation by blessing each other in the reality

of this salvation, in all that we do in word and deed. Again, this is an expression realized in the LORD JESUS.

The LORD JESUS fulfilled (and continues to fulfill even right now) the reality of the Meal Offering by expressing HIMSELF as a perfect and complete blessing to us - in real time, even right now, in all that HE does with us in Word and deed.

HE is alive in our lives through the awesome reality of our having being born again and, in all that HE is doing in us in Word and deed. HE is alive to us today in our personal lives and in the lives of our families. HE is alive to us all of the time. This is the guarantee of our salvation; the reality that HE is working in us through all that HE does in Word and deed.

Given this experience of the living CHRIST, many Christians are willing to make astonishing sacrifices to serve the LORD JESUS CHRIST. Many Christians give sacrificially not expecting anything back. Many Christians give up lucrative careers to serve the LORD in places and cultures foreign to them, even running the risk of being put to death.

The American whose testimony touched my heart on the night the LORD came into my heart was a remarkable case in point. I can't remember his name, but I remember his story. He was senior vice-president of a Fortune-500 company ranked sixth, when the LORD told him to go and work for HIM in Asia.

The LORD even told him that he would be martyred for HIS Name in Asia. The man gave up his career, while in his late thirties, and answered the call. This is a remarkable testimony of what is the fulfillment of the Meal Offering in our lives. This too is the result of salvation.

In whatever line of service, the reason for this expression of love and sacrifice is nothing but the experience of the LORD JESUS and HIS love and HIS blessings.

HIS love and HIS growing fellowship is the reward.

Many, many Christians from all walks of life will testify in unique ways of the way in which they relate to the LORD JESUS in their personal lives. Many have amazing experiences of not just being born again but, also of the LORD in their lives since being born again.

The advent of the LORD JESUS CHRIST into the lives of individuals is often an extraordinary experience meant to ultimately produce outstanding results. Results that GOD can be proud of because they are an expression of HIS astonishing workmanship.

Ephesians 2:10 expresses the fulfillment of the Meal Offering as a creative wonder: **"For we are HIS workmanship, *created* in CHRIST JESUS for good works, which GOD prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."**

The Fifth Picture: Coming To Know And To Love GOD

The Peace Offering expresses the salvation reality of being alive to GOD - in HIS PERSON and HIS Presence - ***all of the time***. This is the reality of communion with GOD fulfilled as part of our salvation reality. This reality is one of **HIS** peace within us.

On the day before HE went to the cross, the LORD JESUS expressed the reality of this peace that comes from HIM as follows: **"Peace I leave with you; MY peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful."**

Through HIS sacrifice on the cross, the LORD JESUS reconciled us to GOD. And the reality of this reconciliation is not some abstract theology but, is a living reality of peace within us.

No one can give us peace. Only GOD can. One of the *expressive* Covenant Names Of GOD is **"I AM WHO I AM - I AM Your Peace"**. The term "expressive", being a reality in which GOD desires us to experience HIM.

The Peace Offering that the LORD JESUS accomplished, results in our ability to experience the LORD our GOD - in peace - when we pray, when we worship HIM and, when we open Scripture in HIS Name.

Throughout history Christians have documented, in an awesome array of writings, their personal experiences with GOD. All of these are documented experiences of GOD's awesome reality in the lives of HIS children. All over the world you can meet Christians from all walks of life with a personal testimony of JESUS in their lives.

So, although Christians have many flaws in themselves they have a reality of salvation in which GOD is working a miracle of change and transformation within them, *in HIS strength*. In this reality GOD reveals HIMSELF to them. In this reality, GOD sustains them. In this reality, GOD blesses them. In this reality GOD perfects them.

In this reality, they know that GOD actually loves them. This is the reality that will remain even through death! HIS love is the peace that we come to realize as the testimony of our salvation. Yes! the ALMIGHTY and MOST HIGH has saved us and no force in the universe can take the reality out of our hearts! AMEN!

The great apostle proclaims the reality of GOD's salvation in the following terms (in Romans 8:31-39): "...If **GOD is for us, who is against us? HE WHO did not spare HIS OWN SON, but delivered HIM up for us all, how will HE not also with HIM (the LORD JESUS) freely give us all things?**

Who will bring a charge against GOD'S elect? **GOD is the ONE WHO justifies**; who is the one who condemns? CHRIST JESUS is HE WHO died, yes, rather WHO was raised, WHO is at the right hand of GOD, WHO also intercedes for us.

Who shall separate us from the love of CHRIST? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ...In all these things we overwhelmingly conquer **through HIM** WHO loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of GOD which is in CHRIST JESUS, our LORD."

Through the great prophet Moses, GOD declared (in Num 6:27, 23-26): **"...Invoke MY Name on the sons of Israel, and I then will bless them."**

...The LORD bless you, and keep you; the LORD make HIS Face shine on you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up HIS Countenance on you, and give you peace."

In the Name Of JESUS, the expressive Name Of GOD (see John 17:6,26) in which and by which we are saved, be blessed and be a blessing always, for this is the meaning and experience of salvation - all of the time - forever, in a growing peace that consumes our inward parts! AMEN!

The next book in this Salvation Series is: "WHO Is GOD?" We hope to meet you again, in the pages of this book. GOD bless you.



Salvation is GOD's gift to man. This book outlines the meaning and experience of salvation. And, most importantly this book speaks of how we can each receive the free gift of salvation from GOD.

Salvation enables us to realize all that GOD has for us in HIS Fullness. This book will lay the foundations of the pursuit of GOD and HIS goodness into your heart. Fulfillment in life comes from all that GOD unveils into us. And this is because, what comes from GOD is abiding, while all that is of ourselves and the world is transitory. Salvation therefore, opens the actuality of the abiding into our heart and mind.

Salvation brings the tangible evidence of GOD and HIS goodness into our heart and mind. And this evidence is verifiable and measurable from the witness of our heart. The reality is entirely supernatural and, the effects are a growing continuum of fulfillment realized within us, that result in a transformed nature and, in an inward state of being that is increasingly alive to GOD.

About The Author

James Niles came to receive the gift of salvation in late 1988, at a Full Gospel Businessmen's Meeting in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), when he heard the loud commanding voice of LORD JESUS CHRIST rebuke the hardness of his heart. Since 1988, the author has experienced a growing variety of changes in his life. This book and other writings have been the result of a transformed life.



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